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Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-92-225
Friday
20 November 1992

Daily Report

Latin America

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Mexico

Foreign Secretary Solana Morales stated on 18 November that the Mexican Government rejects the Torricelli Law and "reiterates its will to maintain trade relations with any country," reports Mexico City NOTIMEX. He said the law violates "the basic principles of international law and nonintervention" and asserted that Mexico's relations with Cuba will not change.

Guatemala

Panama City ACAN reports that President Serrano "was unhurt following a rocket attack by suspected guerrillas on the night of 18 November" at the president's farm in Santo Tomas. The attack reportedly occurred after Serrano had met with a group of labor union leaders. The president was no longer at his farm when they carried out the attack. The Army dismissed "the possibility of this being an attack" on the president, but claimed it was a "rebel harassment against the soldiers guarding the Santo Tomas Presidential Farm."

Nicaragua

In response to a report that Russia has allegedly protested to Nicaragua "over the resale" of Soviet helicopters "to Peru by the Sandinist People's Army, EPS," Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Leal said the Foreign Ministry has not received any such protest from Russia, reports Managua TV. Leal is cited as saying: "We have not officially received a complaint or protest in this regard. We have not received it officially."

Venezuela

On 19 November, the Supreme Electoral Council, CSE, ruled that a proposal to reduce President Perez' term in office, a proposal which was introduced by Senator Pedro Pablo Aguilar and supported by the Movement Toward Socialism, is "unconstitutional and, therefore, inadmissible." According to Caracas TV, the CSE noted that the issue has served to "enhance the country's political culture" by making the Legal Affairs office "carefully" analyze the situation.

Central American Ministers Discuss Integration

PA1911213392 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 19 Nov 92 p 71

[All quotation marks as published]

[Text] Managua—The Central American foreign ministers have begun a meeting in Nicaragua to review the progress of integration and the peace process in the isthmus, and to prepare the agenda for the regional summit that will be held in Panama in December.

At the opening of the one-day meeting, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal said that his country reaffirms the validity of unity and cooperation among the peoples of the region "in order to lead Central America along the correct path of integration."

"Our integration should go beyond words," Leal indicated, after noting that the foreign ministers will evaluate the work done by the Central American Integration System (SICA) and the relations with the EC, the Group of Three (Mexico, Colombia, and Venezuela), and the People's Republic of China.

In brief statements to the media, Panamanian Foreign Minister Julio Linares stated that "it is too early to speak of a juridical-political integration of Central American states."

Linares explained that "today, the Panamanian people would not accept political integration" with Central America, "because they do not feel fully identified with the region to renounce their own citizenship for a common nationality."

"We still have a long way to go on the path of integration so we can get used to a common coexistence, because any earlier it would be artificial and premature," the Panamanian foreign minister stressed.

Meanwhile, Honduran Foreign Minister Mario Carias Zapata explained that the integration proposal presented by the presidents of Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador is intended "to create reflection committees in each country in order to create the conditions for the consolidation" of a single Central American Federation."

The Government of Honduras "believes that the time to think of a political union has come," Carias added, after stating that the integration process is in its first stage.

The Central American foreign ministers concluded that to materialize a political-economic integration, a referendum should be promoted so that the peoples give their opinion on the unity of the region.

Meeting Ends, Results Noted

PA1911233492 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Report by Roger Oliva]

[Text] The progress made by the preparatory commission for the Central American integration system was one of the topics discussed by the area foreign ministers, who ended the 16th meeting of the Central American Executive Commission on 18 November.

[Begin recording] [Oliva] During the meeting, the foreign ministers of Central America and Panama analyzed the bill for the area courts, which will be discussed at the presidential summit in Panama on 10 and 11 December. The Central American foreign ministers discussed the bill for regional agreements on transporting dangerous waste across borders. The presidents will also analyze this topic during the summit. The foreign ministers reviewed a list of topics for the agenda of the meeting.

[Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal] We reviewed farming topics to be discussed at the upcoming summit. We are planning to assess natural resources and the protection of the environment, the strategy for negotiating as a bloc, the area's agricultural and livestock exports, the modernization of the agricultural and livestock sector, the participation of the private sector in the process of integration and commercial opening of the agricultural and livestock sector, and the attraction of private investment for the development of this sector.

The agricultural ministers will discuss these topics prior to the summit and will submit them to the Executive Committee to be brought to the attention of the presidents.

[Oliva] Honduran Foreign Minister Mario Carias Zapata also talked about the topics that will be discussed during the summit.

[Carias] We will also accelerate the work by the Central American Commission For the Eradication of Drugs, as a framework agreement is needed to increase cooperation. We hope Central America will fully support this Commission to ensure coordination of efforts in 1993.

[Oliva] The area foreign ministers agreed to follow up on the initiatives for the integration of the Central American isthmus. [end recording]

Cuba

UN Delegation Proposes End to U.S. Embargo

PA1911153592 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1300 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Cuba has presented at the United Nations a draft resolution demanding an end to the commercial and financial economic blockade imposed by the United States against the Caribbean island over 30 years ago.

The document, which will be analyzed at the current UN General Assembly, reaffirms the sovereign equality of states, nonintervention in internal affairs, and freedom of trade and international navigation. The resolution calls for the elimination or repeal of laws whose territorial application affects the sovereignty of others. Cited among such resolutions is the recently approved Torricelli Law, which was approved by the U.S. Congress to expand the blockade against Cuba.

The Cuban draft resolution asks UN General Secretary Butrus Butrus-Ghali to prepare a report on the fulfillment of the resolution and submit it for consideration at the next session of the leading international organization.

The document proposes that the provisional agenda of the upcoming UN General Assembly sessions include the topic: The need to end the economic, commercial, and financial blockade imposed by the United States against Cuba.

France's CGT Expresses Solidarity With Cuba

FL2011150192 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] The French people's solidarity with Cuba and repudiation of the Torricelli Law is supported by France's General Labor Confederation [CGT]. (Jean-Pierre Faillet), head of the CGT's International Relations Department, announced in Havana that the CGT has called for a big demonstration in front of the U.S. Embassy in Paris.

Canadian Lawyer Group Opposes Torricelli Law

FL2011153092 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] The American Association of Lawyers of Canada has stated that it is in favor of having the Canadian Government firmly maintain its stand in defense of the nation's economic integrity and opposition to the Torricelli Law. This was said by (Jean Pulsome), secretary general of the Canadian section of the American Association of Lawyers, who is heading a large delegation visiting our country. The [word indistinct] has proposed a plan to expand the campaign of solidarity with Cuba through support from Canadian progressive organizations to provide medicines and foodstuffs for children and the elderly.

At Cuban Workers Federation [CTC] headquarters in Havana, CTC Secretary General Pedro Ross Leal met with part of that delegation, which comprises students, nurses, members of the clergy, union leaders, and representatives of various branches of the Canadian economy. Ross said that solidarity with Cuba and rejection of the embargo and the Torricelli Law are subjects of unity among workers, union members, and organizations of different political tendencies worldwide.

Among the group visiting our country is (Diana Lavale), secretary general of Quebec's nurses union, who is leading a campaign to donate important medical equipment to Cuba.

UN Delegate Denounces U.S. Broadcasting Violations

FL2011031292 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0202 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] Cuba has denounced the United States' use of technological advances to continue broadcasting television and radio signals in open violation of Cuba's sovereignty. During his speech to the UN General Assembly regarding communication issues, Cuban UN delegate Edgardo Valdez Lopez stressed that the argument of the so-called freedom of speech in reality, attempts to impose a vision of the world which is foreign to the realities of the peoples.

Valdez Lopez called attention to the fact that the U.S. Government's aim is to injure Cuba's sovereignty at a time when the need to rationally use resources and technologies to benefit mankind is being more fervently discussed. He added that U.S. stations, particularly television stations, openly violate the Nairobi Accord. For this reason, the International Frequency Registration Board concluded that the invasion of the Cuban spectrum constitutes a violation.

UN Diplomats Meet With Nobel Peace Prize Winner

FL1811154692 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Cuban diplomats accredited to the United Nations had a friendly meeting with Guatemalan Indian leader Rigoberta Menchu, the winner of the Nobel Peace Prize for 1992. During the meeting, Cuban UN Ambassador Alcibiades Hidalgo highlighted Menchu's outstanding role in getting recognition for the cause of indigenous peoples. Hidalgo also thanked Menchu for denouncing the U.S. embargo against Cuba.

At the ceremony held by the Cuban UN diplomats to pay homage to Menchu, the Guatemalan Indian leader affirmed once again that she will continue to struggle to defend the national identity of the Latin American peoples. Speaking within the last few hours before the Social and Humanitarian Affairs Committee of the UN

General Assembly, Menchu criticized political manipulation of the human rights issue at the United Nations with the aim of putting the issue at the service of a particular country or group of nations.

Meanwhile, David Coore, the Jamaican Foreign Affairs Minister [and Foreign Trade], has confirmed that the Torricelli Amendment, promulgated by the White House to intensify the economic, trade, and financial embargo against Cuba, is mistaken and unjustified. In statements to PRENSA LATINA, the Jamaican foreign minister added that he hopes the U.S. President-elect William Clinton will reconsider his support for that anti-Cuban legislation. Coore pointed out, furthermore, that Caricom [Caribbean Community] member-countries are, along with Cuba, advocating economic integration.

Also, a PRENSA LATINA cable with a Washington dateline reports that the EC has sent the U.S. Senate and the Treasury Department a message asking that the U.S. caravan of humanitarian aid for Cuba be allowed to cross the U.S. border with Mexico. The aid shipment is to be carried from the Mexican port of Tampico to Cuba on a Cuban ship. The national coordinator for the U.S. organization, Pastors for Peace, has said that the caravan, consisting of some 50 trucks, collected food, medicines, and other products for Cuba in 90 U.S. cities. It is already in the U.S. city of Laredo and is going to try to cross the border on 20 November, despite the fact that U.S. authorities contend that the project violates anti-Cuban legislation.

The national coordinator pointed out that the humanitarian shipment does not constitute any kind of export, nor is it a commercial operation. It is, rather, a humanitarian operation like others conducted by the Pastors for Peace organization in the last few years for Central American nations.

Agricultural Production Increases by 17 Percent

FL2011024692 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0205 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] Thanks to a harvest totaling approximately 34 million quintals of tubers and vegetables, Cuba's agricultural production will have increased 17 percent by the end of this year, in comparison to 1991, despite the special period difficulties. This was stated by Ruben Garcia, the director of the Central Committee's Agricultural Food Department during a meeting with agricultural leaders in Las Tunas Province. Alfredo Jordan, a Politburo member and first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba of Las Tunas, was also present at the meeting.

Garcia added that next year they expect to harvest 15 million quintals of plantains, two-thirds of which will come from microjets irrigation. He also said that there is a noted increase in the efforts of Las Tunas' agricultural enterprises and cooperatives and that their harvest total will have increased by the end of the year.

Havana Notes Reduction in Infant Mortality Rate

FL2011030492 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] The infant mortality rate continues to decline in Cuba. To date, we have achieved a rate of 10.5 out of every 1,000 live births. Health personnel in Cuba work to maintain the high quality of maternity and newborn care in order to achieve an even lower infant mortality rate. In Havana, efforts are being made to win this battle despite the conditions of the special period. This task becomes more difficult due to Havana's being the capital.

The results can already be seen. At the moment, Havana has been able to reduce its infant mortality rate to 9.9 out of every 1,000 live births. In the plenum on infant mortality, which was held on 19 November with directors of obstetric, gynecologic, and pediatric clinics, agreements were made to find alternatives by using antibiotics and by obtaining stronger ties with family doctors. It is in the communities where we need to gain time and become more efficient in the [words indistinct] of newborns and in hospital discharges.

Politburo Member Comments

FL2011135292 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] The efforts being made in Havana City Province to continue to lower the infant mortality rate, which is currently only 9.9 for every 1,000 live births, were highlighted by Jorge Lezcano, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba in the capital. Lezcano, who is also a member of the Politburo, said that the work of the physicians in the family doctor program is essential in lowering this rate even further. These doctors, who number 4,200, care for 87 percent of the population of the province.

Pedro Ross Notes CTC Participation in Elections

FL2011004892 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2320 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Pedro Ross Leal, secretary general [of the Cuban Workers Federation, CTC], spoke of the elements that are essential for the workers movement's participation in the election process. Pedro Ross pointed out that the municipal and provincial labor union plenums will begin analyzing the [word indistinct] of nominated candidates on 20 November. Ross said that the nominations made to the list of pre-candidates will be submitted to the provincial assemblies [word indistinct] to the national assembly.

Ross added that the nominated comrades should have exemplary behavior. They should have the capacity and the potential of carrying out their responsibilities if they are elected. He emphasized that being nominated is an honor, even though it does not mean that they will necessarily be included as candidates.

Official Visits Bejucal Electoral Commission

FL2011015492 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Report by correspondent Uliser Hernandez Ortiz]

[Text] A few minutes ago, Candido Palmero, a Politburo member and first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba of Havana Province, visited the headquarters of Havana Province's Electoral Commission in Bejucal. Palmero stressed to reporters that the nomination process is progressing in a revolutionary manner because individuals with the best records are being nominated.

Raul Mantilla Ramirez, the president of Bejucal's Electoral Commission, gave a detailed briefing to Palmero on the assemblies: 80 percent of the scheduled assemblies have taken place. The highest number of assemblies—373 are scheduled—will be held on 19 November in Havana Province.

Following his visit to the electoral commission, Candido Palmero told reporters that recent rains benefited agriculture but that it rained excessively in Artemisa where 162 mm of rain fell. Palmero added that the potato planting campaign is progressing well in Havana Province and that they expect to be finished before 20 December by which time 439 caballerias will have been planted.

Politburo Member Garcia Attends Sports Ceremony

FL2011012892 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2320 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] A group of several [word indistinct] and personalities related to sports and physical education were honored this afternoon as part of the activities in honor of 19 November. The solemn ceremony was held at the Ramon Font Multi-Purpose Hall in Havana. The ceremony was chaired by Maria de los Angeles Garcia, a member of the Politburo; Jose Ramon Fernandez, vice president of the Council of Ministers; Manuel Gonzalez Guerra, president of the Cuban Olympic Committee; and Conrado Martinez Corona, president of the National Institute for Sports, Physical Education, and Recreation.

The Order of Athletic Merit, which is given by the Council of State, was awarded to 24 comrades. Meanwhile, another 73 were given the Martyrs of Barbados Award, and 60 were given the Rafael Maria [name indistinct] award, which is given by the sports labor union to those who have served in that area for more than 25 years.

Lastly, 313 former athletes, who represented Cuba in the Olympic Games between 1948 and 1980, were given the Olympic button, an award given by the CIO [Internatinal Olymic Committee].

Crombet Visits Southern Provinces in Vietnam

FL1811224892 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2032 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] The Cuban delegation headed by Jaime Crombet, vice president of the Council of Ministers, received new expressions of solidarity with Cuba during their tour of southern provinces in Vietnam. The Cuban leader held several meetings with Vo Tran Chi, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Vietnam, and Phan Tan Chu, president of the Cuban-Vietnamese Friendship Association. According to a dispatch from PRENSA LATINA news agency, today, the Cuban delegation traveled to Vung Tau, where Vietnam's main oil sources are located.

The Cuban delegation, which is headed by Crombet, will depart tomorrow for Havana. They described the results of their visit to Vietnam as very fruitful and highlighted the strong spirit of solidarity with Cuba that exists in Vietnam.

Commentary Views 'Friendly Relations'

PA1911040792 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Roberto Morejon commentary]

[Text] The friendly relations between Cuba and Vietnam have gotten stronger and have withstood the test of the rapid changes that occurred in the now defunct socialist community. Although their experiences are not necessarily identical, Hanoi and Havana continue to conduct experiments in socialism according to their historic traditions, needs, and regional environments. A Cuban delegation headed by Jaime Crombet, vice president of the Council of Ministers, has arrived in Vietnam to explore ways to expand the bilateral ties between the two countries.

The two governments reached agreements in principle on trade in 1993 and the preparation of a number of mutually profitable cooperation projects in public health, agriculture, fishing, and other fields. In Hanoi, the Cuban delegates met with high-ranking Vietnamese leaders. During the meeting, the desire to defend the ideas of socialism was set forth. The two nations think—now more than ever—they must strengthen the ties between their parties, governments, and peoples to reinforce the traditional friendship between Vietnam and Cuba. This friendship reached one of its climaxes during the U.S. war of aggression in Indochina in the 1960's and 1970's.

Cuban builders, doctors, poultry farmers, sailors, agricultural and livestock technicians, intellectuals, scientists, artists, and sports people were in Vietnam during the most recent 32 years of steady relations, cooperating with the Vietnamese people under war conditions. In turn, Vietnam has never impassively ovserved the frequent U.S. acts of hostility against Cuba. Now, the ties are in a different stage. Cuba highly appreciates Vietnam's economic progress, which enables the country to deal effectively and positively with the consequences of underdevelopment and protracted war.

In the light of the new times, it will be possible to find new cooperation formulas between Vietnam and Cuba, particularly in trade. Visits like Combet's will contribute toward this goal.

* Special Period Produces New Customs, Slang

93CA0021A Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 26 Oct 92 p 2A

[Article by Beatriz Saravia Krohne]

[Text] Havana—In Cuba, there apparently is not one, but many truths. No one asks how the party was, but rather, how things went for you at the party. In this way, they have learned not to bring gratuitous problems on themselves.

"That's why we don't say what we think," claims Carlos Dilz, a 42-year-old builder of a commercial insurance enterprise. "But we'll retain our dignity and principles here until we die. 'We don't exchange principles for pesetas' is our slogan. They made concessions in the Soviet Union, and look what happened to them."

Tourists arrive in Havana with more baggage than they intended to carry. Before traveling, they are approached at the airports by relatives and friends of Cubans who want to send them clothing, letters, books, cosmetics, or medicines.

From aloft, the vicinity of Cuba's Jose Marti Airport resembles the green chessboard of the Bogota Savanna. Upon landing, however, an average temperature of 28 degrees centigrade and a relative humidity of 75 percent remind one of Cartagena, particularly with its cannons embedded in the walls of Old Havana, its Morro Castle, the Colonial Vineyard, and the Royal Force Castle.

Some pieces on the green chessboard are the "pawns": peasants working daily under strict government control. On Sundays, the children convert these fields into makeshift "pelota" (baseball) diamonds.

Other pieces are the bony horses, and the Holstein and Zebu cows that are crossbred to produce both milk and meat, and the graveyards filled with old, cannibalizd Lada cars that could be revived if there were any way of fueling them.

However, there is no way. Hence, the traffic on the island has been reduced by 20 or 30 percent of what it was 22 months ago. According to the study entitled: "New Opportunities for Cuban-United States Trade," published by Johns Hopkins University in the Unied States, before 1988 Cuba was receiving 20 million tons of gasoline annually. It is currently receiving 7 million, and has the capacity to produce only 1 million tons per year.

This is why an entire bicycle infrastructure has been established on the island. Imported from China, approximately 600,000 bicycles circulate along the right lane on Cuban streets. From 3 to 5 pesos is the fine for those riding in prohibited areas (1 peso is equivalent to a dollar). Whole familes pedal several kilometers per day to reach their school or work sites. Late at night, young people of all races take their parents' bicycles to participate in the 4-km races held between the Deauville and Riviera Hotels. Their girlfriends ride behind them and, at the sound of the bicycle horns, the meager traffic gives way, and inquisitive people start appearing on the balconies.

Every month dozens of crates, each containing five Flying Pigeon (26-inch) and Forever (28-inch) bicycles arrive in Cuba, totally dismantled. Hundreds of students from 10 polytechnical schools are responsible for assembling them. By so doing, they complete their practice in the specialities of assembly and repair, welding, lathe operating, or electronic maintenance.

The Culture on Wheels

The enormous use of bicycles in Havana has produced an entire language emerging from the horns installed on most of the handlebars. They are sounded to prevent an accident with an absentminded person crossing the street, or to call attention to those "pale" (white), "dark" (brown), and "mulatto" (black) girls who are distracting, and causing accidents. Certain "notes" are more importunate than others, but nearly all of them receive a response.

This is part of the romantic street melody that one hears in Havana. Some of the youths are more skillful, reciting poems, moving their hips to the rhythm of the Cuban sound emitted from nearly every balcony, or showing off their curving biceps and triceps, gradually tanned by the sun.

Taxi service for Cubans has been reduced 50 percent. In exchange, taxi-bicycles have appeared, with the driver hauling behind him a cart in which up to three persons can fit.

The Metro, intended to be built during the time of the love affair with the Soviets, was scrapped, because the ground tests had negative results: the soil is very unstable and permeable in some locations, and has many ledges in others.

During peak hours the cyclists go by announcing with shouts the locations to which they are riding, so that whoever needs the service can climb onto the back. Trucks, jeeps, and cars with blue or red "chapas" (plates), that is, public-sector vehicles, also pick up along the way people who are heading in the same direction.

Meanwhile, traffic agents make certain that no one is left out of the "guaguas" (buses) or "aspirins" (because catching them is a headache). They do not allow the driver to start until all his doors are closed, disregarding the protests that begin over the heat and lack of air. "We are in a 'special period,' and there must be cooperation," they declare.

When the buses are moving, some children play, hanging from the "guagua" windows and climbing onto the roofs. They are the so-called "mataperros" [street urchins] (problem children), seen, even at ages 8 or 9, with cigarettes in their mouths.

Dilz comments: "The children and adolescents are no longer as they were before. They have become very independent. Among them, even being romantic is 'cheo' (outdated)." Nevertheless, in the neighborhoods south of Havana, which do not even appear on the tourist maps, the children still play with their "chimichanas" (small ball-bearing cars) and bats (wooden racquets), playing games of "handball" (wall tennis using the hands), "cancha" (the equivalent of squash), and volleyball.

What has not been changed by the special period are the "motivitos" (rumbas), to which people are invited from house to house. Although the host does not request it, everyone cooperates in organizing them, bringing what they can: meat or fish croquettes, salad, rice, or music. There is no more lambada, nor Juan Luis Guerra. Now, they have Jose y Jose, some "rap," and, of course, salsa and boleros, received at 2000, directly, on large tape recorders and old Soviet record players.

With a "vaca" (collection), they gather the money for Havana Club, Varadero, or Tropicana rum, beer, and sugarcane brandy. Few arrive as couples, but everyone leaves in pairs at midnight, to continue the singing and dancing at El Malecon. It is the traditional meeting place, demarcated by a wall pounded by the Caribbean waves, where the traditional carnival was celebrated at the end of July.

For All Tastes

By that time, a few "jineteras" (prostitutes) are strolling around the hotels. Some mothers complain that, with the "special period," there has been an increase in the number of young girls seeking clothes and meals from foreign men. Added to this is the fact that, in Cuba, any woman who is a "chula" (having more than one man) is considered a "jinetera."

On the other hand, the "chulos," men "putting on horns" (meaning unfaithful) are considered merely gallants, Don Juans, or lovers. If they are good-looking, they are simply "suave."

If women are pretty, however, they are "animals," "sick," "savages," "good," "barbarous," or "a crime." When they go by, there are comments such as: "If you get AIDS I'd like you to catch it from me," "you're a knock-out," and "you would break a corozo palm (heart)." Or, at least, their names are asked: "Listen, my life, what is your 'grace' [name]?"

Cuba's grace lies in that: in its people, in their enterprising spirit and their capability, despite all the restrictions, of still smiling at life, and of taking the pulse of the island, despite the high tensions.

Roundup of Economic Activity 10 Nov to 18 Nov

FL1811163692

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on economic developments in Cuba carried on Havana radio and television between 10 November and 18 November. Source information is given in parentheses at the end of each item.

Underwater Photography Championship Announced—The fourth World Underwater Photography Championship on the Isle of Youth was reported. The report notes that the event has been organized by the National Tourism Institute with the participation of 17 countries. (Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 10 Nov 92)

Status of Turbine Generators Updated—The Sugar Industry Ministry [Minaz] hopes to gradually release sugar refineries, textile mills, and derivative plants, from the national electric network by installing 42 turbine generators, each capable of generating 200 kilowatts. The report adds that Minaz hopes to have the turbine generators operating by the middle of next year. (Radio Rebelde in Spanish 1800 GMT 10 Nov 92)

Recycling Efforts Noted; Guina Harvest Updated—Organizations of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution saved $10 million, mainly through recycling efforts. These organizations also participate in the construction of civil defense tunnels. Reloj further reports that the miscellaneous crops enterprise of Guina is the second enterprise to harvest 1 million quintals of miscellaneous crops, and hopes to set a new record.(Radio Reloj in Spanish 1500 GMT 11 Nov 92)

National Housing Budget Noted; Bicycle Production Increases—"Up to the end of September, the national budget had taken in a total of 129,297,000 pesos for housing," and the National Housing Institute has reported that the income plan for the current year is for 169 million pesos.(Radio Reloj in Spanish 2030 GMT 11 Nov 92)

It was also announced that the Bariay bicycle factory in Holguin Province has increased production to 5,000 bicycles per month, to be distributed in Holguin, Granma, and Las Tunas Provinces.

Harvest Yields Record Ammounts—Farmers from the state and private sectors in Havana Province have harvested the record amount of over 10,250,000 quintals of tubers, vegetables, and grains. Of that figure, 3.6 million quintals were produced by cooperatives and small farmers; the rest came from the state agricultural enterprises, which substantially increased their production over last year's. Radio Reloj at 1500 GMT adds that the special agricultural work force in Havana Province has significantly achieved doubling production under difficult conditions.(Radio Progreso in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Nov 92)

Harvest, Planting Updated—It was reported that 28,998,200 quintals of tubers and vegetables have been harvested nationwide through October, and that state enterprises attained a 4-million quintal increase. Cienfuegos, Las Tunas, and Guantanamo lead in the winter planting campaign, with 2,727 of 3,102 caballerias planted so far. A total of 6,931 caballerias need to be planted in November and December.(Radio Rebelde in Spanish 1255 GMT 17 Nov 92)

Establishment of Sugar Cane Farms Updated—The first of the 83 sugarcane farms planned for Ciego de Avila Province have been established in the area known as La Dominica, which belongs to the Orlando Gonzalez Agroindustrial Complex. The ceremony to inaugurate the farm was attended by Alfredo Hondal, a Politburo member and party first secretary for Ciego de Avila Province. The radio adds that the farm has more than 300 caballerias of cane fields, and that six of the planned 83 cane farms will be attended to entirely by the Youth Labor Army.(Radio Rebelde in Spanish 1000 GMT 18 Nov 92)

Cement Consumption Declines—GRANMA reports that the Construction Ministry is using the minimum amount of cement in its history: 349 kg to produce one meter of concrete. Seven provinces and the Isle of Youth have reported below-average consumption of cement. It is possible that within the next year, only 330 kg of cement could be used to produce one meter of concrete. (Radio Reloj in Spanish 1500 GMT 18 Nov 92)

Bahamas

Pindling Plans To Step Down as PLP Leader

FL1811214292 Bridgetown CANA in English 2114 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Nassau, Bahamas, Nov 18, CANA—Sir Lynden Pindling, prime minister of the Bahamas for 25 years, has announced he will step down as leader of the opposition Progressive Liberal Party [PLP] at the next convention. Sir Lynden told the PLP's national general council Tuesday [17 November] night that he must take full responsibility for the party's defeat at the polls to the Free National Movement on August 19, but that the party would be able to bounce back under new leadership. He called on the council to select new leadership that will restructure the party to meet the challenges of the future.

Sir lynden said the PLP believed in an active government that put "people first, not profits," and never forgot their objectives to eliminate poverty, prevent exploitation, crush tyranny, and expose social injustice. He said there were those trying to rewrite history, distort the facts, and depreciate the contributions that the PLP made in its 25 years in government. Sir Lynden follows the former deputy prime minister, Sir Clement Maynard, who resigned shortly after the general election, citing the need to pass on the baton to a new generation.

The PLP postponed its convention last month because of financial problems. The convention is expected to be held in January, 1993. Both Sir Lynden and Sir Clement will retain their seats in the House of Assembly.

Barbados

Editorial on Influence of Blacks in U.S. Congress

FL1611170192 Bridgetown CANA in English 1620 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Nov 16, CANA—Following is the text of the editorial in Monday's [16 November] DAILY NATION.

"When the new session of the United States Congress begins in January, more blacks than ever will be sitting in the House of Representatives, and the first black woman will be a member of the powerful Senate.

"While that important fact probably hasn't escaped the gaze of Barbados and its Caribbean neighbours, they should make a determined effort to relate more effectively with the large bloc of black elected officials in Washington.

"Clearly it is in the Caribbean's interest to do so. For with 39 members in the House and one in the Senate, blacks are well-placed to influence domestic and international policy.

"Take the case of foreign aid. With America's economic woes forcing more and more elected officials to concentrate on improving conditions at home, foreign aid is under increasing attack, even from some members of the Black Caucus who want to see more done to help the urban and rural poor at home.

"But what is often ignored in the debate about foreign assistance is that most of the money earmarked for overseas is actually spent in the United States, buying goods and services from United States companies.

"On top of that, a handful of Middle Eastern countries, especially Israel and Egypt, get the lion's share of the aid money while African, Caribbean and Latin American states are given very little. Caribbean and African nations have a responsibillity to emphasize that lopsided situation to the Black Congressional Caucus.

"But there must be more to the relationship between Caribbean nations and blacks on Capitol Hill than emphasizing aid.

"The issue of international trade, be it the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) or the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) must come before Congress in one form or another. The question of additional funding for the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund is also to be considered by Congress. But that's not all.

"With hundreds of thousands of Caribbean-American immigrants living throughout the United States, Caribbean states must recognise that the problems of rising health care costs in the United States, declining educational standards, poor housing and high unemployment are the everyday concerns of all blacks, including West Indians who live there.

"After all, when America's poor hurt, Caribbean-Americans also feel the pinch."

Haiti

Government 'Prohibits' Clandestine Travel to U.S.

FL2011163092 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton has asked the Haitians not to try to go to the United States aboard rough-and-ready boats. Clinton says that before he takes office on 20 January 1993 he will clearly announce what policy he will follow as to how he will deal with the Haitian boat people. Clinton has renewed the promise he made during his electoral campaign, that is, he will not change.... [pauses] that is, he will change George Bush's policy toward the Haitian refugees. U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton is now studying two possibilities: to reopen the Guantanamo base to accommodate Haitian boat people, or to seek another place in the Caribbean to send them while awaiting—according to him—the return of democracy to Haiti.

According to information released by a delegation of Americans in Haiti last week, Haitians have already built about 700 boats for travel to Miami when Bill Clinton takes office. The consensus government has forbidden the organization of clandestine travel by Haitians to Miami aboard rough-and-ready boats. In a communique published at the beginning of the week, the government has asked the people not to believe those who tell them that U.S. officials will not control or require anything of them. The government reminds the clandestine travel organizers that severe sanctions will be applied against all those inducing unfortunate people to sell all they own, promising them they will get a better standard of living in the United States. To put an end to the question of clandestine travel all over the country, the government has asked the priests, the pastors, and the press to tell the people how dangerous clandestine travel to Miami is. This danger exists both on the sea and on U.S. territory, according to the communique of the Consensus Government.

It is not the first time that the Haitian Government has taken a stand against clandestine travel in the country. In the beginning of the 80's, Jean-Claude Duvalier's government took a similar measure to prohibit clandestine travel. The Duvalier government even signed an agreement with the U.S. Government to authorize the Coast Guard to arrest any Haitian boats caught in the sea between the two countries. We recall that the U.S. Government's decision to intercept and repatriate Haitian refugees is still in force.

General Cedras Gives Armed Forces Day Speech

FL1911202092 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1130 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Speech by General Raoul Cedras, commander of the Haitian Armed Forces, at the Army General Headquarters in Port-au-Prince on 18 November—recorded]

[Text] Officers, warrant officers, and soldiers of the Haitian Armed Forces [FADH]: Today, we are again present for an appointment with the heroes of our independence, and are as proud and as determined as they themselves were. This year, especially in the shadow of Capois La Mort—whose statue we would like to see in bronze—not only do we defy the cannonballs of the ancient enemies, but above all, we rise against the hindrances and flaws engendered by the country's long stagnation in underdevelopment. The symbolism of the bronze statue would express our willingness to finally include all our sublime and unshakeable barefoot tramps—in the same ideal of greatness in surpassing themselves, open-mindedness for a common and prosperous homeland—in the same gallery, on the same pedestal. It is 18 November, already one year, during which laughter, dancing, and harmony—so much hoped for—have been dawning on the horizon despite anguish and reversals.

Officers, warrant officers, and soldiers: Despite your unwavering exercise of your right to intervene, and your flexible response to a multitude of low blows, the entire nation is still plunged in a diplomatic war, with as background, embargo and the intensified impoverishment of a people eager to define itself, to move along universal paths more suited to its culture, its breeding, and its philosophy as a precociously free and independent country.

Despite the feverish activity of a sector which—from the bankers to the street peddlers—understood that only private initiatives at all levels could circumvent the embargo and allow the nation to survive, while expecting it to live by itself and itself alone, the mortgage on Haiti's future remains. Despite our necessary answer to the imposition of a form of democracy that refuses to take into account our mental evolution and our digestion of the advanced occidental concepts of tradition, archaic structures, individuality, and chronic underproduction, the sister countries of America and the old continent unfortunately oppose our right to intervene. They have not accepted that within the context of an underdeveloped economy, a nation's structures generate democracy of a plebeian and unitarian nature with absolutely antiliberal leanings. A serious policy question, that of power—at the dual level of exercising it and controlling it, especially in countries that have dictatorial traditions and that recently chose democracy as a political regime—arises. They do not understand that Haiti answers this question, which they have wanted to overshadow and then refute through sanctions, a phenomenon that, in all likelihood, forecasts the political future of many nascent democracies in a diversified America as a whole.

The entreaties of the little Haitian people, who are isolated and overwhelmed with all kinds of hardships, were in vain. Their efforts to resume normal relations, so that the dirty laundry of brothers in the same family can finally not be washed in public, were in vain. Their measures for a way out of the crisis, commensurate with the happiness hoped for each by its sons, were ineffectual. In this unprecedented situation, which scorns any diagnosis and prognostication, the FADH calls for all their brothers to once again look inward and to persist in the negotiation logic, in the country first [applause], and then abroad, and not fall into a combinatory logic of personal and electoral objectives instead.

The FADH, bruised and crippled in the flesh by the loss of many of their valiant soldiers, killed every day in action, have swallowed the most unjust and unjustified epithets. Nevertheless, once again, they have said no to vengeance and reprisals. Like Capois La Mort, they have again stood more firmly than before. They remain convinced that Haiti, its national institutions, and democracy are not negotiable. [applause] This is why they ask all those who look at them without seeing them, all those for whom the only end is power for power, the components of Haitian society, the so scorned press, and the political parties, for a truce and a broadening of political participation, in which all together, Haitians of the same land, brothers who have the same father and the same mother.... [pauses] We look at the same [words indistinct] bathed in sunlight without the color of blood in a constitutional peace. We make another country by reviving our [words indistinct], our African dances tinged with Indian and white [as heard]. Together, we all forge a common program, the basis for a new social plan so that we can finally be taken seriously.

Officers, warrant officers, and soldiers: Today more than ever, the command is leading the march past. Always serene and firm, I order you to follow me step by step, to reflect this new image, a part of all of our ancestors in each garrison, each barrack, each outpost, each post, and each soldier so that civilian society finally understands that the Army is definitely becoming integrated into the nation. [applause]

Officers, warrant officers, and soldiers of the FADH: Your commander in chief is proud of you. [applause] He loves you and respects you for having shared your nights of wakefulness, your sufferings during the difficult moments, your anguish [words indistinct], your anxieties for your families' and country's future, your frustations due to misunderstanding, and your joys on the game fields. It is certain that you are men, even more, responsible men.

Officers, warrant officers, and soldiers: Remember your orders. Close ranks, be Haitians more than ever, brothers, and sons of Haitians.

Jean-Claude Roy Comments

FL1911215392 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Some first reaction to General Raoul Cedras speech on Armed Forces Day on 18 November comes from Constitutionalist Jean-Claude Roy. He thinks that the speech was extremely important. According to him, it was a rare opportunity, capable of solving the political crisis by opening up the consensus government and the negotiations.

[Begin recording] [Roy] Briefly, I believe that I will ask the opposition to formally record the speech made by General Cedras, which is extremely important. This speech shows a great deal of sincerity and primarily a great deal of courage from the general. I do not know if reading it would indicate the same. However, having heard the speech twice without reading it, the general, for me, shows great courage when he questions the Tripartite Agreement that the Army signed. Furthermore, when the Army is asking for a opening up by the government, I say that it is questioning the Tripartite Agreement on those two points because the Tripartite Agreement was a repatriation of the negotiations of the Washington Agreement.

Now, the general is asking once more for this national harmony. I believe that it is a positive answer to those who put forward the necessity for a national conference.

[Correspondent Clarence] He spoke of pursuing negotiations....

[Roy, interrupting] He did not speak of pursuing negotiations. He spoke of national negotiations before international negotiations. I say that it is a questioning because the Tripartite Agreement was supposed to be the result of national negotiations. It is then a revelation that I say demands great courage from a commander in chief, representing an institution that signed that Tripartite Agreement, to question and confess the failure of a solution that was proposed by the Tripartite Agreement, which also renews the consensus view. If the general can talk today of a opening, that is because he acknowledges that the consensus government is not a consensus government. When the general says that everything is negotiable except Haiti, democracy, and its institutions, I say that the doors are open and that is is necessary for the opposition sector to formally record it and act promptly on it. [end recording]

Officials Urge International Pressure on Military

FL2011131292 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] Haitian Foreign Minister Jean-Robert Sabalat and Franz Joseph, a member of a presidential commission set up by ousted Haitian President Jean-Bertrand

Aristide, both say a negotiated solution to return democracy to Haiti is still possible.

The two officials are trying to increase international pressure against the Haitian military, who currently hold power in Haiti. They say that next week, at the request of the Organization of American States, the United Nations General Assembly will consider a resolution calling for a global embargo against sending any weapons and petroleum products to Haiti, and also freezing Haitian assets worldwide. The two officials say this is the only way to peacefully force the military to begin legitimate negotiations.

Coauthor of Abortive Bid for Power Reportedly Murdered

FL1611174792 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 16 92

[Text] The Monseigneur Guilloux street murder of (Hendric Louis), who was in charge of refuse collection in Port-au-Prince and was coauthor of the abortive bid for power on 7 January 1991, was reported. He allegedly was killed by unidentified persons who fired three bullets into his head, chest, and back. (Hendric Louis) was recently questioned by police in Port-au-Prince during the course of their investigation into the murder of Mrs. Gerard Saliba.

Jamaica

Patterson Departs for Africa, South America

FL1811223892 Bridgetown CANA in English 2151 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Nov 18, CANA—Agriculture Minister Seymour Mullings has taken over the reins of the Jamaican Government in the absence of Prime Minister P.J. Patterson who left Tuesday [17 November] for a series of meetings in Africa and South America. Patterson's appointments include the Group of 15 meeting in Senegal; oil talks with the Nigerian Government; the meeting of the Rio Group in Argentina, and talks with Chilean Government officials on bilateral cooperation. He returns home on December 6.

St. Lucia

Chamber of Commerce Urges Economic Diversification

FL1811195092 Bridgetown CANA in English 1907 GMT 18 Nov 92

[By Peter Richards]

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, Nov 18, CANA—The St. Lucia Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture, pointing to the uncertainty facing the vital banana industry, on Wednesday [18 November] urged diversification of the economy away from dependence on a single activity. The island's principal business group made clear it was against any other activity replacing bananas as the dominant sector. To do so, it said, would be to "place us back on the monocultural bandwagon with all our proverbial eggs in one basket."

St. Lucia's banana industry, which is dependent on a protected export market in Britain, faces a possible end to this preferential treatment after 1992 when the European Community embarks on internal free trade in the context of a single market. Producers here and in the other Windward Islands say the banana industry will not survive if sales to Europe are subjected to a free trade regime, which some powerful interests are demanding. The chamber also noted that constant depreciation of the pound sterling—the currency in which payments are made to St. Lucia for banana exports—had dramatically cut the industry's real earnings, adversely the amount of money in circulation and government revenue.

President Ornan Monplaisir, addressing the chamber's annual general meeting, said that while efforts to retain traditional markets overseas continue, emphasis now must be on devloping new "foreign exchange bases away from bananas."

"We have foreseen the policy implications of a declining banana industry and encourage a more proactive investment stance by the private sector," he said. Monplaisir said such a stance must be matched by "sensible conservatism" from the other social partners to maintain and improve the island's competitiveness in the international marketplace.

"Any future strategy for economic survival and further development depends on the harmonious interaction of the three pillars of the economy—the private sector, labour, and government. And in this regard, we once again urge the establishment of a more structured working arrangement for regular tripartite dialogue and collaboration," he said.

Monplaisir warned against developing the vibrant tourism industry in isolation. He urged new policy directions for the sector and called for the establishment of a private sector development fund to supplement the promotional and human resource development budgets of existing tourism institutions.

"A similar fund, which has been successfully developed in barbados, is based on contributions from the private sector, which are rewarded with a tax credit equivalent to 150 percent of contributions," he said. "This matter has been put to government and we expect that it is receiving active consideration." In recent times, tourism has edged out agriculture as the principal foreign exchange earning industry.

On the issue of investment, the chamber president said that he believed the stimulation of equity markets could be facilitated through an OECS (Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States) stock exchange, "providing that private and public sector interest in establishing publicly held companies increases."

"The chamber is also seeking funding for a feasibility study to determine the viability of a local credit bureau and we have proposed to government that a separate registry of companies be established under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce," he added. Monplaisir urged the government to assist local investment further through new initiatives such as tax credits, revised incentive regimes and removal of production biases in order to generate interest in non-traditional ventures.

"Current liquidity in the banking system indicates that adequate savings exist to support such investment," he said.

On the issue of the Caricom Common External Tariff which the Chamber had opposed in its original form because the 45 percent maximum rate was considered too high, Monplaisir said the business group wanted the government to introduce the revised version (which has a 35 percent maximum rate) in the new year.

Monplaisir said the new CET "is more likely to promote efficiency in domestic production, maintain a required equity with larger manufacturing economies of the region and allow St. Lucia and the OECS to maintain attractive incentive regimes for direct foreign investment." He also urged Caricom countries to concentrate on jointly exploring opportunities offered by the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), adding "it should be clear that artificial market structures, perpetuated by protectionist policies and preferential mechanisms, are rapidly becoming things of the past."

Taiwan Gives Grant for Community, Sports Projects

FL1811141092 Bridgetown CANA in English 1246 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, Nov 18, CANA—Taiwan has made a grant of one million East Caribbean dollars (one EC dollar = 37 U.S. cents) to St. Lucia for the development of community projects and sporting facilities.

A statement issued by the prime minister's office here said it was the second grant to St. Lucia; the first was made when Prime Minister John Compton visited Taiwan in 1989. Compton and two junior ministers have just returned from an official visit to Taiwan. According to the statement, while in Taiwan, the delegation attended a seminar on investment opportunities in St. Lucia.

Talks were held with senior Taiwanese officials on the prospects of improving trading relations and financial and technical assistance between the two countries. The statement said that the delegation also visited Hong Kong "to examine the possibility of developing trade between the Far East and St. Lucia, using St. Lucia as a distribution centre for goods imported from Far Eastern countries."

"In furtherance of this, it was agreed that a trade delegation from St. Lucia should visit Taiwan early in 1993 to look at opportunities for increased trade," the statement said.

St. Vincent

Government To 'Keenly' Follow Clinton Policy

FL1811195192 Bridgetown CANA in English 1821 GMT 18 GMT 92

[Text] Kingstown, St. Vincent, Nov 18, CANA—The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Government will be "keenly" following U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton's "management and guidance" of the United States and the world economy, Prime Minister James Mitchell has said. The comment was contained in a letter sent to Clinton last week and made available to the local press this week. In the letter, Mitchell congratulated Clinton and his Democratic Party for its victory in the 5 November [date as received] poll.

"Just as we have watched with great interest your courageous ascendancy in the campaign, we will also be following keenly your management and guidance of the United States and the world economy," the letter stated in part.

Mitchell said this was a critical time for small Caribbean economies "as we attempt to reconcile our traditional trading pattern with demands of the world's new liberal trade regime."

He added: "We will be seeking your sympathetic ear."

Mitchell told local journalists that although there would be a new president in the White House, U.S. policy basically remained unchanged with successive administrations. Of particular concern to St. Vincent and the rest of the Windward Islands would be the stand Clinton takes on the trading of Caribbean bananas in a single Europe.

Mitchell Invites Haiti's Aristide to Speak

FL1711182192 Bridgetown CANA in English 1516 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Kingstown, St. Vincent, Nov 17, CANA—Deposed Haitian president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, will address the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Parliament during a two-day official visit next month, Prime Minister James Mitchell said. Mitchell told reporters Monday [16 November] he had finalized arrangements for the visit with the Haitian ambassador to the United Nations during a visit to New York last week.

"We are giving him the opportunity to have a platform at this stage to address the world," Mitchell stated. He said now was an important time for Aristide to be given such a platform as a political transition was taking place in the

United States following the defeat of Republican President George Bush in this month's elections.

"We have to maintain the momentum to ensure the democratic process in Haiti is sustained and it is for this reason that we are inviting him. We have no predictions on a time (for his reinstatement), but think the change in the United States administration gives a very interesting point for activity because I don't think that much could have been done before the United States presidental election as far as the leading power in our part of the world is concerned."

Mitchell said St. Vincent and the Grenadines would continue to support efforts at the UN and in other international agencies aimed at Aristide's reinstatement, but felt avenues should continue to be created for the ousted president to be heard.

"We will do our part to give him the opportunity to speak to the world with the authority of our parliament here in St. Vincent and the Grenadines." Aristide's address to Parliament on December 15 will precede the presentation of the government's 1993 budget. An itinerary for the Haitian leader's visit has not yet been released, but it is expected that he will make other public appearances.

Trinidad and Tobago

Manning Urges Banks, Consumers To Save, Invest

FL1811174892 Bridgetown CANA in English 1545 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Nov 18, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister Patrick Manning called on the local banking sector and consumers Tuesday [17 November] to contribute to the growth and stability of the economy through savings and investments.

Stating the government was trying to establish a high level of confidence among the financial and business sectors here and in the wider Caribbean, Manning said the important role of the commercial banking community towards the country's economic development should not be underestimated.

Noting that commercial banks played a major role in the generation of savings and investment, the prime minister added that high priority must be assigned to achieving a reversal of the current trend of decreasing capital formation and developing innovative mechanisms for increasing the level of national savings. Manning said the banks must also enhance their corporate role by encouraging and giving priority to investment lending over consumer lending.

"Excessive and luxury consumer spending tends to have some degree of inflationary effect on our economy, and given our propensity for imports, places severe pressure on the balance of payments and foreign reserves position," Manning remarked. "Further, increased access to capital through investment lending will also complement our country's export-oriented strategy for development by giving exporters the opportunity to source much-needed funds for production and marketing. My government is of the view that if such investment initiatives are encouraged through the commercial banks and the rest of the private sector, the country will be well on its way to stabilization and growth."

Government, he said, was in the process of reviewing and revising the legislation governing the financial sector to ensure that satisfactory provisions were made for the establishment of a more efficient, competitive, and properly regulated financial system.

The Central Bank Act will be amended to strengthen existing mechanisms for managing banking crises and improvements will be made to the regulation of trust, mortage, and finance companies through the Financial Institution (non-banking) Act.

"The government is also actively pursuing the development of the capital securities market, thereby providing a wider range of marketable instruments which can be effective in mobilizing a substantial flow of resources for the financing of investments," the prime minister disclosed.

Manning said in order to improve the efficiency of the financial market and to make treasury bills more attractive to the private sector, neccessary arrangements were being made to have government bonds listed on the stock exchange. Government's aim, he said, was to improve the framework of incentives to the private sector, increase competition and increase the participation of the private sector in the process of trade liberalization.

In this regard, government was establishing a national business advisory board which would act as the agent of government's industrial policy and which would liaise with private sector agencies both domestic and foreign.

He said: "This will ensure that viable projects are identified jointly with the private sector, and also facilitate the rapid implementation of the investment process."

Manning Appoints Maraj Caricom Affairs Minister

FL1611142792 Bridgetown CANA in English 1158 GMT 16 Nov 92

[By Leonard Robertson]

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Nov 15, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago on Sunday [15 November] named External Affairs Minister Ralph Maraj as minister responsible for Caribbean Community (Caricom) affairs.

Prime Minister Patrick Manning told CANA the Caricom affairs portfolio would be in addition to Maraj's duties as foreign minister.

Caricom heads of government, at a summit here late last month, decided to establish ministries for Caricom affairs to help speed up the process of regional integration.

Manning spoke to CANA during the lunch break at the 31st annual convention of the ruling People's National Movement, being held at the historic Chaguaramas Convention Centre where the treaty establishing Caricom was signed.

In a major address during the morning session, Manning identified priority areas for the proposed union among his country, Guyana and Barbados.

Manning said "greater collaboration and co-operation in diplomatic missions including joint representations abroad; increased co-operation in sport (a Guyana, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago football team); double taxation treaties among the countries, and drug enforcement and interdiction activities" were the areas identified.

Manning, Guyana President Dr Cheddi Jagan, and Barbados Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford had talks following the summit here on Manning's proposal for closer ties among the three countries.

Manning said Sunday the thinking behind the move to accelerate the integration process within Caricom was fostered by the urgency of the need to demonstrate to the international community "our commitment to fully integrate our (Caricom) economy in international trade."

Manning, who is chairman of Caricom, said the region must strive to ensure improved access to international finance by increasing the attractiveness of the area to foreign investors and lenders. "This does not mean surrender, it means taking advantage of a geographical reality," Manning said.

He pointed out that the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and new tenets of the European Community threatened to reduce and even eliminate preferential access for certain Caricom products on international markets and urged that the liberalization and integration of Caricom proceed "as a matter of urgency."

In a 75 minute address, Manning said Caricom countries must maximise benefits that may be derived from existing preferential access status with the United States and Canada.

"Full exploitation of these opportunities would require a coalition that would effectively organise and develop the information needed to address issues such as non-tariff barriers and improved access for presently excluded products," he added.

"Such a grouping would also have to remain close to the emerging NAFTA in order to lobby for extention of any improved benefits under NAFTA for CBI and Caribcan," he said.

CBI (Caribbean Basin Initiative) and Caribcan are preferential trading arrangements, established by the United States and Canada respectively for the benefit of Caribbean countries.

Rejection of Torricelli Law Announced

PA1911143292 Mexico City Notimex in Spanish 1016 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Mexico City, 19 Nov (NOTIMEX)—Mexican Foreign Secretary Fernando Solana Morales has stated that the Mexican Government rejects the Torricelli Law and reiterates its will to maintain trade relations with any country.

Speaking before a group of deputies on 18 November, the foreign secretary explained that Mexico is against any attempt to apply the laws of any country outside its territory, as these violate the basic principles of international law and nonintervention.

Solana Morales ratified Mexico's decision to establish diplomatic ties as an expression of sovereignty, and he ruled out that this stand could be subordinated to the will of a third country.

During a working meeting with the Foreign Relations Commission of the lower chamber, led by Maria de los Angeles Moreno and Jose Antonio Gonzalez Fernandez, the foreign secretary emphasized that "it is necessary to reiterate that Mexico determines its foreign policy of its own free will."

Freedom of trade is a basic and undeniable principle of international law which is independent from the particular interests of a country, and much less of the application of local laws outside its territory, he pointed out.

He said that relations with Cuba remain unchanged, and Mexico advocates defending international law. He also said that "a deep love for its historic principle is what makes our foreign policy more solid, congruent, and stable."

The Mexican foreign secretary stressed that, with its foreign policy, his country seeks to contribute to the national goals, which are based on historic principles, clear objectives, and realistic strategies, with a strict respect for international law.

He added that the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Holy See was done based on the Constitution and within the framework of recent reforms that recognize the legal status of churches and religious groups. The measure, he said, is compatible with the universal spirit of foreign policy in addition to the fact that we coincide with the Vatican on the purposes of maintaining harmony and preserving peace.

Concerning President Carlos Salinas de Gortari's forthcoming visit to Buenos Aires, Argentina, to attend the summit of the Rio Group, he said this is an opportunity for Ibero-American rapprochement. He said that for this meeting there is a specific working agenda for strengthening regional economic integration through regional agreements and for revising communications programs as well as scientific, technical, and cultural issues. Concerning the meeting that will be attended by President Salinas de Gortari, the official said it is a top priority for Mexico to strengthen regional meetings, particularly with Ibero-America where new opportunities for dialogue have been opened.

With regard to the United Nations, Solana Morales said Mexico has been an active promoter of reforming the organization so that, with the consensus of all of its members, it will respond to the challenges of the new era. "It is indispensable to redistribute the attributions and responsibilities of the UN bodies, increase their coordination, and democratize their procedures," he stressed. He said the United Nations should be a forum for the authentic expression of all the member states and efforts should be made to prevent it from being turned into an instrument to legitimize by consensus the interests of a few powerful countries.

The Mexican foreign secretary concluded that Mexico has reiterated that the inability to subject international relations to the rule of law and the permanence of the huge structural imbalances of society are the greatest obstacle for an authentic and lasting peace.

Commerce Secretary, Governors Discuss NAFTA

PA2011140092 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] On 19 November, Jaime Serra Puche, secretary of commerce and industrial development, headed the regional meeting with several governors to discuss the North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA] held at the Gomez Palacio Convention Center in Durango State.

The meeting was attended by Francisco Barrio, governor of Chihuahua, and Arturo Romo Gutierrez, governor of Zacatecas. Teofilo Torres Corso, governor of San Luis Potosi and Coahuila Governor Liseo Mendoza Berrueto sent representatives to the meeting. Host Governor Maximiliano Silerio Esparza was also present.

[Begin Serra recording] Eighty percent of the exports—according to numbers from 1991 for Mexico, the United States, and Canada—are allowed immediately to enter the U.S. and Canadian markets without tariffs on the very day the NAFTA goes into effect. [end recording]

Serra Puche explained the contents of the trilateral trade agreement and later installed the work tables which discussed topics about the rules regarding the origin of goods, access to markets, foreign investment, services, and textiles and agriculture.

For this event, 215 invitations were sent to businessmen, academic institutions, and other sectors.

President Extends Free Zone Law Until 1993

PA2011140192 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Excerpt] In various parts of the country, the free zone status was extended until December 1993. President Carlos Salinas de Gortari announced this on the second day of his tour through Baja California State.

President Carlos Salinas de Gortari visited Mexicali and delivered to Baja California State Governor Ernesto Ruffo Apel a copy of the federation's official newspaper which announced the extension of the free zone status until December 1993. With this measure the president fulfilled a promise he made in Tijuana on 18 November.

[Begin Salinas recording] The free zone was designed for a closed economy. Today, our Mexico, all of it, is moving toward a free trade zone.

Therefore, the special free zone status will have to be adapted to the new circumstances in the country through dialogue, agreement, reasoning, and through understanding the peculiar needs of each one of the states that today benefit from the free zone status.

That will take time, but in the meantime it is essential to eliminate the doubts of the producers with regard to the decision on the extension of the free zone status here in Baja California State.

I promised on 18 November that the federation's official newspaper would publish on 19 November the extension of the free zone status until the end of 1993.

Here is the official newspaper, here is the extension, and I deliver it to the governor of the state, thus fulfilling the promise I made to the people of Baja California. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Economic Growth for 1992 Equals 2.8 Percent

PA1811160292 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Report by Claudio Guzman]

[Text] The progress of the national economy in the third quarter of the year confirms the positive trend experienced in most productive sectors of the country. The Finance and Public Credit Secretariat reported that from January to September of 1992, internal production grew by 2.8 percent.

Despite the adverse international conditions, in the third quarter of this year, the economy of Mexico grew by 2.8 percent, following a 1.4 percent growth rate registered during the second quarter. The financial report, which was sent to Congress, made public figures on the third quarter of this year. The industrial growth for this period totalled 4.3 percent, while the growth of industrial sector branches is as follows: Construction, 13.2 percent; gas and water generation, 5.4 percent; mining, 2.9 percent; manufacturing industry, 2.6 percent; the basic metal industry, 8.1 percent; and the food industry, 4.5 percent.

The services industry grew by 2.6 percent, but agriculture, cattle-raising, forestry, and fishing production shrunk by 1.3 percent.

Protestors Occupy PRI Offices in Isla Mujeres

PA1811210892 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] The Institutional Revolutionary Party's [PRI] offices were taken over in Isla Mujeres in Quintana Roo State by dozens of people who also blocked the city's main plaza.

At Isla Mujeres, those who occupied the PRI offices were evicted after almost 24 hours. The PRI building was taken over by approximately 400 sympathizers of Ariel Magana, an Isla Mujeres mayoral candidate, after the PRI elections to name a candidate. According to the demonstrators, these elections were not very open.

Mateo Coral, PRI electoral coordinator in Quintana Roo, reported that the conflict had been solved by the appointment of Jorge Cardenas as the party's candidate for the 21 February elections. Coral said two other candidates had presented their resignations. The PRI ratified Jorge Cardenas as its sole candidate for mayor of Isla Mujeres. Until several hours ago, Jorge Cardenas, was the PRI president in Isla Mujeres.

Belize

Canadian Government Funds Two New Projects

FL1911200092 Bridgetown CANA in English 1611 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Belmopan, Belize, Nov 19, CANA—The Canadian Government has handed over money for the funding of two new projects in Belize and has agreed to fund five others, it was announced here. Canada's high commissioner to Belize, Jennifer McQueen, on Tuesday presented two cheques; one for 8,800 dollars (1 Bz dollar = 50 cents U.S.) to the Belize Organisation for Women and Development (BOWAND) to expand its public education awareness programme and the other for 32,040 dollars to the Human Rights Commission of Belize (HRCB) to buy equipment to assist in expanding its outreach programme in rural Belize.

Canada's funding consultant in Belize Lester Young said the Canada Fund, the source of the money for the listed projects, makes grants in priority areas of agriculture, education, health, and those involving women. The fund also deals with projects in the areas of human resource development and income generating enterprises for people in rural Belize.

The high commissioner announced that another Belizean, Francisco Shish, had been appointed as the second member of the local team to assist with the administration of the fund. The fund was recently called upon to support initiatives involving refugees as a means of assisting communities and the government to meet increasing demands on scarce resources.

High Commissioner McQueen described the Belize Government's approach to integrate refugees into the Belizean society as "pragmatic and compassionate."

Last week, McQueen presented a cheque for 60,000 dollars to the Punta Gorda Hospital in southern Belize. The money is for the refurbishment of the hospital's water and sewerage system in the wake of an outbreak of cholera in the area.

Canada has made many significant contributions to Belize, including funding for the Belize Water and Sewerage System (BWSS), providing training for employees of the Ministry of Home Affairs, and technical assistance to Belize's Survey Department and Ministry of Natural Resources.

Since 1962, all forms of aid from Canada have totalled 85 million dollars. Since the Canada Fund was set up in 1977, over 4 million dollars has been disbursed to support small scale projects in all six districts of Belize.

High Commissioner McQueen said: "It is extremely difficult to make a choice on projects we fund."

"A major criteria for a project to be funded by the Canada Fund is sustainability," she added. "The project must be able to go on even after Canadian funding comes to an end. It must have the backing of the entire community and not just one man's bright idea."

Funding approved for the five other projects totals 133,380 dollars. The majority of the projects are being undertaken in western Belize.

Costa Rica

'Small-Scale' Trade With Cuba To Continue

PA1911205692 Mexico City Notimex in Spanish 1632 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] San Jose, 18 Nov (NOTIMEX)—Costa Rican President Rafael Calderon Fournier on 18 November said: There is no way the Costa Rican Government will prevent trade with Cuba, although it will continue to trade on a small scale.

President Calderon told NOTIMEX that "we have not changed our policy on Cuba. We do not have diplomatic or consular relations with Cuba and we will not have them in the future." Calderon said "trade with Cuba exists simply because there is no law in Costa Rica that prohibits it, although the trade exists on a smaller scale."

He explained that the commercial contacts with Cuba are "carried out by private companies and cannot be considered government-to-government relations, but must be viewed as activities between private companies." President Calderon stressed that these commercial relations cannot be suspended, because "there is no law that prevents commercial activities from taking place."

President Calderon refrained, however, from making any direct commment on the Torricelli law, which tightened the U.S. embargo against Cuba. Regarding the objective of the Torricelli law, he said that "we all envisage changes in Cuba and, hopefully, the changes will be achieved peacefully."

He said "Costa Rica, as a peace-loving nation, hopes the changes will be achieved peacefully and without any bloodshed." Calderon told NOTIMEX that "the Ibero-American summit is a golden opportunity to help to achieve a peaceful change and, I think that the summit proides the best path for Cuba."

"I believe the Ibero-American summit, rather than any other type of pressure, is the best course for Cuba," the Central American president added. dd

El Salvador

Government To Deploy Military in Coffee Crop Areas

General Ponce Defends Deployment

PA1911210892 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 1830 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Report by Dandi Montoya]

[Text] Defense Minister General Rene Emilio Ponce has said the deployment of military forces announced by President Alfredo Cristiani is one of those exceptions contained in the Constitution.

[Begin recording] [Montoya] According to the defense minister, the legal system and the Constitution allow the Armed Forces to participate in actions, such as those announced by President Cristiani.

[Ponce] Everybody should understand the Armed Forces are an institution that is part of the Executive Branch. It does not have an aggressive role but an obedient one. The president made a decision as general commander of the Armed Forces, and we will abide by it. As for your specific question, the Constitution empowers the president to use the Armed Forces in cases of emergency to resolve problems that may arise in the interior of the country.

[Montoya] Commenting on the letter the president will send to the UN secretery general, containing the first administrative decisions on the Army purge, he trusted the Ad Hoc Commission report was objective, justified [justificativo], and not speculative so the appropriate decisions are made based on a proper evaluation. [end recordig]

Deputies Support Decision

PA1911222392 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Report by Hilda Quijano; passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] Nationalist Republican Alliance [Arena], National Conciliation Party [PCN], and Authentic Christian Movement [MAC] deputies supported President Cristiani's decision to deploy soldiers to patrol coffee crop areas. Christian Democratic Party [PDC] legislators, however, questioned the measure because it could violate the peace agreements.

President Cristiani's announcement has prompted various reactions in the Legislative Assembly. Arena, PCN, and MAC deputies support the president's decision as Armed Forces commander in chief to fight criminal actions in the country.

Arena Deputy Raul Somoza said the argument from the grass roots sector that the presidential decision is unconstitutional is not valid in face of demands for government actions to control crime.

[Somoza] "Soldiers will be deployed, but they will be accompanied by representatives of the UN Observers for El Salvador. I do not think this measure violates or hinders any effort."

President Cristiani said after the cease-fire the Armed Forces could support the actions carried out by the National Police to fight crime, particularly in coffee crop areas. PCN Deputy Rafael Machuca said the measure is justified in view of the absence of a police corps capable of effectively controlling the problem.

[Machuca] "The National Civilian Police is not up to full strength. Therefore, either the Army assumes those functions or the coffee harvest will be left unprotected. In that sense, it is the government's responsibility to protect the coffee crop, and the only institution that can provide that protection right now is the Army."

MAC Deputy Guillermo Guevara adopted a similar position saying that Cristiani's position does not violate the Constitutional articles that assign specific functions to the Armed Forces.

[Guevara] "A Constitutional amendment states that in case of an emergency the president of the Republic can resort to the Armed Forces and must inform the Legislative Assembly of the reasons for adopting that measure."

PDC Deputy Roberto Viera said President Cristiani should avoid violating the spirit of the Constitution.

[Viera] "I believe President Cristiani's concern about protecting the country's productive areas is valid, but any measures taken should respect the agreements and the Constitution."

Meanwhile, other legislators who support the president's decision said the Armed Forces, as an obedient institution, must follow orders from its commander in chief.

Democratic Convergence Rejects Decision

PA1911222092 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Report by Gandi Montoya]

[Text] The Democratic Convergence [CD] termed the government's decision to assign patrolling and public security duties to the Army as unconstitutional.

In view of reports from coffee growers on criminal actions in coffee producing areas, on 16 November President Cristiani announced a plan for National Police to provide security services in those areas. He added that once the cease-fire with the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front expires, members of the Armed Forces could reinforce the services provided by the National Police.

[Begin Cristiani recording] We hope to improve the situation once the cease-fire expires by implementing preventive measures in specific coffee harvesting areas—I repeat: preventive, not public security measures—by the Armed Forces, which by that time will not have to be concentrated. [end recording]

CD leader Ruben Zamora noted that to deploy military forces, the government must have the permission and be supervised by the UN Observers for El Salvador [Onusal]; otherwise it would be violating the peace agreements. He added that even with Onusal's permission, that action would violate constitutional rules regarding the functions assigned to the Army.

[Begin Zamora recording] Our Constitution clearly states the Armed Forces cannot carry out police duties in our country, except in situations of grave national disturbance. We do not consider the situation grave. [end recording]

The CD said the government should be worried about reinforcing the current National Police and expediting the incorporation of the first group of National Civilian policemen instead of deploying members of the Armed Forces.

CPDN Opposes Army Operations

PA2011042592 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 18 Nov 92 p 2

[Text] The Permanent Committee for the National Debate on Peace (CPDN) issued a statement on 17 November reporting that the Army should not be assigned a public security role, as requested by the country's coffee growers.

According to the CPDN, the Constitution will be violated if the appeal issued to the Armed Forces is heeded. The Constitution clearly indicates the Army must defend the country's sovereignty and territory rather than engaging in public security actions. The CPDN added the public security role is assigned to the National Civilian Police [PNC], which should be supported by the National Police rather than the Army.

Edgar Palacios said a solution to crime must be sought without violating the peace accords and respecting the Constitution. He added this is a social problem that must be countered with judicial and socioeconomic measures. "One cannot fight crime simply by enforcing the law," he said.

Palacios added the government must establish economic measures that allow the civilian population to live with dignity rather than force them to become criminals because they lack a good salary or a job.

The CPDN members said the PNC must be provided with the necessary resources to face criminals who steal in different parts of the country.

Palacios said the coffee growers' request encourages the Armed Forces to violate the Constitution and the spirit of the peace accords, whose goal is a demilitarized society.

The coffee growers issued a request because the coffee harvest is about to start and they need protection given the high rate of crime in the country. Consequently, they have asked the Armed Forces to patrol the different zones where they will harvest their coffee.

Shafik Handal Calls Plan 'Violation'

PA1911201192 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Report by Alfredo Villarreal]

[Text] Jorge Shafik Handal, leader of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, has said the cease-fire could be broken if President Cristiani deploys soldiers to protect the coffee harvest.

Shafik Handal expressed his concern saying the government measure could break the cease-fire, which so far has been maintained despite some differences between the parties.

Shafik Handal said if government troops are sent to protect coffee crop areas this could cause friction with FMLN combatants, as many coffee farms are near FMLN concentration camps.

[Begin Shafik Handal recording] This is a violation of the agreements, specifically the cease-fire agreement, which states that during the cease-fire the military forces from both sides should not leave the concentration areas, and that only specific movements are permissible, which must be regulated and and supervised by the UN Observers for El Salvador. We believe the fact that the president made that decision ignoring the agreements is very serious. [end recording]

Shafik Handal added that the FMLN General Command currently is evaluating the demobilization of the next 20 percent of combatants.

[Begin Shafik Handal recording] The FMLN is prepared. The problem now is that we must confirm and conduct a profound evaluation of the overall compliance with all the agreements. We are ready. We currently are conducting an in-depth evaluation to confirm compliance with all the agreements in order to have an overall picture. [end recording]

According to the new timetable, the FMLN must demobilize its fourth contingent of forces on 20 November, in order to complete the process on 15 December with the demobilization of the last armed guerrillas.

Villalobos Calls Plan 'Unacceptable'

PA2011032592 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1230 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Report by David Rivas]

[Text] Up until 18 November, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] had not denied or confirmed reports on postponing the disarming of more than 1,600 FMLN combatants, an operation scheduled for 20 December. Commander Joaquin Villalobos of the FMLN General Command said the demobilization of the fourth and penultimate 20 percent of the FMLN combatants is uncertain for the time being. Villalobos mentioned a number of points in the peace agreements the government has failed to comply with. According to the most recent rescheduling, these points should have already been complied with at this time in the peace process. Among other things, Villalobos mentioned the Supreme Electoral Tribunal's refusal to register the FMLN as a political party. He referred to President Alfredo Cristiani's announcement on 16 November regarding the deployment of Army troops to protect coffee harvesters in various parts of the country. Villalobos said this protection is a pretext by the government to dislodge the peasants who have occupied lands in various regions of the country.

[Begin Villalobos recording] The FMLN has not yet made a decision on the deadline established for the demobilization of another FMLN contingent. We have reported to the United Nations that according to our interpretation of the schedule, every step taken by the FMLN should be followed by a number of steps by the government. Now, the registration of the FMLN as a political party has been denied. The government is reluctant to distribute privately-owned lands and has started to encourage landowners to refuse to sell their lands. There is a general tendency to slow down compliance with all the agreements, something we had anticipated. All of this seems to indicate 15 December will be a fatal date for the FMLN. We think the creation of a crisis at the end of the peace process as a unilateral pressure is a miscalculation. The truth is that a crisis created around this date would be costly for everyone. Naturally, we cannot accept the idea of the appearance of being cheated in the end because this would ruin our political perspectives.

Cristiani's remarks on 17 November were extremely negative. His remarks have led most of the combatants to refuse to demobilize. Cristiani virtually announced that beginning 16 December—when the FMLN will be disarmed—the Army will be deployed in force in the region. We think this movement has nothing to do with the protection of harvesters, but is a plan to dislodge the peasants from the lands they are occupying. This is unacceptable. Our situation is already very difficult and will have to be debated to try to find a solution. For the time being, however, the demobilization of the next 20 percent is in doubt. [end recording]

Guatemala

Serrano Unharmed in Attack on Presidential Farm

PA1911200292 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1920 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Guatemala City, 19 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—It was unofficially reported on 19 November that Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano was unhurt following a rocket attack by suspected guerrillas on the night of 18 November at the president's farm in Santo Tomas, 35 km south of the capital.

According to military sources that confirmed the attack, which was reported by a dispatch from the director of the nongovernmental GUATEMALAN NEWS AGENCY [AGENCIA DE NOTICIAS DE GUATEMALA], known as ACAN-EFE [as received], the incident took place on the night of 18 November, when Serrano had just begun meeting with a group of labor union leaders.

According to the report, the rebels did not know the president was no longer at his farm when they carried out the attack. According to the note, Serrano had planned to sleep at his farm but changed his mind at the last minute.

Military sources that were consulted said the rocket attack was carried out by members of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (RUNG).

This is reportedly the second attack on the Guatemalan president. On 31 January 1991, he was shot at while overflying the town of Peten.

Army Says Serrano Not Target of Attack

PA1911230092 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2020 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 19 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—The Guatemalan Army confirmed on 19 November that on the evening of 18 November guerrillas attacked the presidential farm located 35 km south of this capital. There were no casualties. The Army dismissed the possibility of this being an attack on President Jorge Serrano.

Defense Minister General Jose Domingo Garcia stated the attack took place a few minutes after President Serrano left the farm after having met there with a group of Guatemalan labor union leaders.

A report from the director of the nongovernment GUATEMALAN NEWS AGENCY [AGENCIA DE NOTICIAS DE GUATEMALA—ANG], Axel Cocon, notes that the alleged attack on Serrano took place on the evening of 18 November.

However, General Garcia has affirmed that it was not an attack on the president, but rebel harassment against the soldiers guarding the Santo Tomas Presidential Farm. The military officer noted that the rebel rocket attack seriously damaged farm installations, but no one was injured.

According to ANG, the rebels did not know that President Serrano had already left the farm when they harassed the soldiers. According to the ANG report, Serrano had planned to spend the night at the presidential farm, but at the last minute he changed his mind. [passage omitted]

Presidential Spokesman Supports U.S. Document

PA2011032092 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Guatemalan Presidential Spokesman Fernando Muniz has expressed appreciation for the U.S. State

Department's statement of approval for the rapprochement observed between the government, the Army, and the Catholic Church.

[Begin recording] [Muniz] I have read the U.S. State Department document with a great deal of satisfaction, because it commends the Executive Branch's efforts to improve the human rights situation and its rapprochement with the Catholic Church and other sectors with which there are differences or misunderstandings.

The Executive Branch and the president of the Republic, thus, see the U.S. State Department's letter with satisfaction. It endorses the Executive Branch's efforts in the human rights situation and also expresses satisfaction for the very important rapprochement with the Catholic Church. The latter will enable talks to continue, not only in regard to this incident [not further identified], but in regard to the human rights situation, which is a topic that is of great interest currently.

[First unidentified reporter] [question indistinct]

[Muniz] The journalists were the ones who told me this. I do not have such a document in my hand. I can, however, show you the U.S. State Department document right now. The letter expresses full support and praises the Executive Branch's attitude with regard to the issue of the Catholic Church.

[Second unidentified reporter] Was there interference in Guatemala's internal affairs?

[Muniz] No, the U.S. Government only sent its observations on the human rights topic. I believe the letter bolsters all the sectors in Guatemala that are working in favor of reconciliation. We believe the letter is very positive for Guatemala, as it is supportive of the reconciliation process and the Executive Branch's efforts to improve the human rights situation. [end recording]

Fernando Muniz also made reference to the remarks made by Thomas Strook, former U.S. ambassador to Guatemala, who expressed his opposition to the criticism against the Guatemalans who participated in a seminar on torture in Washington.

[Begin Muniz recording] With regard to the statements made by Mr. Thomas Strook, whom we consider to be a former ambassador, I can only say that he is a U.S. citizen and his position has to be respected, but nothing more. We have no stand on his statements, because it is just the position of one U.S. citizen and only merits our respect.

With regard to the State Department's document, they commend the Executive Branch's attitude and our attempts to improve the human rights situation and look favorably upon our rapprochement with the Catholic Church. [end recording]

Honduras

General on Government, Business Sector Conflict

PA2011032292 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Interview with General Luis Alonso Discua, Honduran Armed Forces commander in chief, by Francisco Valeriano; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Valeriano] There has been much talk about the mutual recriminations between private businessmen and the government. We are now asking General Luis Alonso Discua, Honduran Armed Forces commander in chief, about this situation.

[Discua] I think this problem can be solved, and I hope an agreement will be reached on economic and political matters for the sake of all of us. I think this will be achieved.

[Valeriano] Do you think the government's economic adjustment plan is the cause of the discontent of the business sector, or are these men defending privileges?

[Discua] Each one defends his own interest. It is logical to think some people may feel more affected by it than others. We must look at the results that the government's economic adjustment plan may have in the future. I think it is better to experience a critical situation right now than to begin the 21st century with an even more difficult economic situation. We must strive to have a better future. We must wait. I think the problem that exists between the private business sector and the government, as I have been reading in the newspapers, must be resolved for everyone's sake.

[Valeriano] Some see this as a plan to make political gains.

[Discua] I do not know. As I said, We hope everything will be settled.

[Valeriano] What do you think of private businessmen espousing populist causes?

[Discua] The danger of all this is that things may get out of hand and become critical. One must handle this with the greatest wisdom and calm, so the results will not be very difficult in the future.

[Valeriano] Are there political connotations to this issue?

[Discua] As I said, anything is possible. I have not had the chance to talk to some members of the business sector. That is why I cannot give you an answer.

[Valeriano] There is talk that businessmen are defending their privileges. To what extent is this true?

[Discua] We must understand that when groups feel the impact of structural changes in the economy, we will have this sort of reaction. Let us hope the government and the business sector will meet to discuss this matter and seek points of agreement for the sake of everybody. This matter involves all of us. We must find the most viable solution. Everybody is entitled to defend his stance. I do think dialogue is important in these cases.

[Valeriano] Could the Armed Forces intervene as mediator in this difference between the government and businessmen?

[Discua] I do not think so. There are people in the government and private business sector who support dialogue. These people want to find a solution to the problem. The Armed Forces are just an observer.

[Valeriano] What could happen, general, if this situation is not settled as soon as possible?

[Discua] I think they will seek points of agreement through dialogue, as I said. Let us hope things will not become more critical and they achieve something for the sake of all the people. In this case the people suffer the most. The people suffer the consequences of any disruption that takes place. For that reason, we hope an understanding is reached.

[Valeriano] Do you think the economic adjustment plan needs to be adjusted, as businessmen say?

[Discua] As I said, the government is doing its part. I think the constant adjustments in the country's economic structure benefit some groups, but they should benefit the majority, which is the most important.

[Valeriano] Do you fear the situation will get out of hand?

[Discua] I do not think so. We have had even more difficult problems, and we have resolved them.

Minister Rules Out 'Dual Nationality' at Border

PA1811165192 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 17 Nov 92 p 4

[Text] Tegucigalpa—Foreign Minister Mario Carias Zapata said on 16 November that the disputed border areas bordering El Salvador that were granted to Honduras by the International Court of Justice [ICJ] ruling will not become anyone's enclave, thus ruling out the possibility that Salvadorans residing there will have dual nationality.

Regarding Salvadorans who have expressed their desire for dual nationality, Carias said their request has not yet been evaluated, adding that "it must be clear, however, that there will be no enclave or any extra-constitutional organization in that area."

Carias emphasized that those territories have always belonged to Honduras. The next step will be appointing mayors and judges to reaffirm the presence of Honduran authorities, he noted.

Regarding the Border Demarcation Commission, Carias said the Binational Commission, in its most recent meeting in San Salvador, agreed to continue working with autonomy and independence as established in the 1986 agreement.

Carias announced that the commission will meet again in Tegucigalpa on 20 November to evaluate the work carried out in 1991 and plan future meetings.

In addition, Carias reported that the Honduran commission is working domestically with the support of census and statistics experts to conduct surveys at the border in the next few days. He added that the possibility of the Communications, Public Works, and Transportation Ministry providing logistical support is being studied. Carias said that although there has always been a Honduran presence in Goascoran, an inspection will be carried out there. He did not foresee any problems in Nahuaterique, Dolores, and Cayaguanca as a result of strong pressures from Salvadoran citizens.

Regarding sovereignty in the Pacific Ocean, Carias said the issue will be studied by a special, high-level scientific and technical commission. The Interinstitutional Commission for Maritime Affairs will be in charge of conducting those studies, he added.

Carias said the conclusions and alternatives derived from the studies will be ready by mid-1993, which will be positive, because in the past no one wanted to invest in the area due to the lack of well-defined borders.

Government Protests Mexican Tax on Beef Imports

PA1911223792 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 19 Nov 92 p 4

[Text] Tegucigalpa—The Honduran Government has protested Mexico's decision to tax imported Honduran beef. It emphasized that this decision hinders effective free trade negotiations between both countries.

Starting on 11 November, the Mexican Government imposed a tax, which ranges from 20 to 25 percent, on the import of Honduran cattle and beef. Such a decision will negatively affect the Honduran market by 14 million lempiras a year.

Ramon Medina Luna, Honduran economy and commerce minister, said he sent a letter to Jaime Serra Puche, Mexican commerce and industrial development secretary, in which "we presented our formal protest," as other countries in the region have done.

He said he hoped the Mexican Government will understand the situation that the tax is an obstacle to better understanding and to the successful negotiations of the Free Trade Treaty with Mexico in accordance with the Tuxtla Gutierrez presidential summit agreements.

Medina Luna stated: "If necessary, we will have to send a delegation, not only from Honduras, but also from Guatemala, El Salvador, and Nicaragua, to try to find a way to correct this situation."

Minister Medina's 13 November letter to his Mexican counterpart, says that these types of measures are contrary to the interest expressed by the highest political levels of both countries regarding the establishment of a Free Trade Area.

He said beef is one of Honduras' main exports to Mexico and added that the beef benefits Honduran exporters as well as Mexican consumers as it offers them a larger supply of the product.

Honduras exports at least 100 vans, that is approximately 45,000 pounds of beef a year, amounting to between five and 14 million lempiras a year.

Nicaragua

Foreign Minister Denies Russian Protest Received

PA1911173592 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Referring to an alleged protest from Russia over Nicaragua's resale of Soviet weapons, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal said Russia has not sent any official note on this. Foreign Minister Leal also announced the postponement of a meeting of the Group of Three [Mexico, Colombia, and Venezuela] with Central America.

According to an EFE report, Russia protested to Nicaragua over the resale of helicopters to Peru by the Sandinist People's Army because this allegedly violates bilateral agreements still in force. The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry has not received any such protest.

[Begin Leal recording] We have not officially received a complaint or protest in this regard. We have not received it officially. [end recording]

The foreign minister announced that a meeting between the Group of Three and Central America has been postponed. It had been scheduled for 29 November and was to be attended by President Chamorro.

[Begin Leal recording] I spoke with Colombian Foreign Minister Nohemi Sanin on 17 November about this. The meeting may be held the first week of February, but this has yet to be decided. [end recording]

Regarding the controversy between Sandinist leaders and the government over their recent talks, Leal said the important thing is to resolve the property issue. He said the round of talks continues with all sectors, adding that the government will be meeting soon with the Bishops Conference.

Chamorro Asserts FSLN Communique Shows 'Weakness'

PA1911184692 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro said on 18 November that the communique by the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] blaming the government and private enterprise, among others, for the country's difficult economic situation, shows the opposition is weak because many people do not support it.

[Begin Chamorro recording] I feel it shows the weakness of the opposition, which is now called the FSLN. They know many people do not support them, and that many former Sandinists are now businessmen who want to have their stores and do not support the nonsense proposed by Daniel Ortega that people should take to the streets or go on strike. Nobody wants strikes; everybody wants to work. I do not think anyone wants to side with them. [end recording]

Assembly President Criticizes President

PA2011032792 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] National Assembly President Alfredo Cesar Aguirre held a news conference on 19 November in the mezzanine of the National Assembly building and gave important statements to the media. The assembly president said the Chamorro administration has become estranged from the National Opposition Union [UNO] parties which supported her rise to power, because she has neglected the government platform that was offered to the Nicaraguan people during the electoral campaign. He also said Chamorro signed a pact with the Ortega Saavedra brothers after the 25 February 1990 victory, thus betraying the Nicaraguan people.

Alfredo Cesar Aguirre said this separation could be settled once Violeta Barrios Chamorro resumes her ties with the UNO political parties which supported her campaign. He also said the country will thus be able to overcome its economic collapse, caused by the poor policies implemented by the defeated Sandinists—who boycott the UNO government with strikes, company seizures, and demonstrations by pro-Sandinist hordes.

The National Assembly president said he expects Mrs. Chamorro will reconsider her position, solve the rift, and resume her ties with the UNO political parties, so they may fulfill the pledges made to the Nicaraguan people during the presidential campaign.

Finance Minister on $25 Million Loan From World Bank

PA1911190592 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Finance Minister Dr. Emilio Pereira Alegria on 18 November announced that the Nicaraguan Government has obtained an important loan from the World Bank [WB] to continue its support the public investment projects.

On 18 November Minister Pereira received a letter from the WB indicating that a $25 million loan had been approved. This loan is earmarked to strengthen the investment plans of the Emergency Investment Social Fund and will guarantee that there are reserve funds at the Nicaraguan Central Bank, the minister explained.

Pereira concluded that the additional $25 million will permit the Nicaraguan Government to maintain the value of the currency, thereby maintaining economic stability in the country.

* FSLN Blamed for Economic Problems

93CA0011C Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 5 Oct 92 p 14

[Commentary by Alfredo Poveda P.]

[Text] We in Nicaragua have typically tried to resolve our economic problems through loans and foreign aid. This mistaken approach, which has accustomed us to easy solutions to our problems, should call our attention to the need for very serious reflection on this matter, because we are always waiting for someone to help us to move ahead by providing us with a temporary solution to momentary coverage.

This type of aid appears to be a solution, because it commits our people to paying off the debt contracted in the short or long term. It is not possible to survive indefinitely on international generosity. To this unfortunate situation is added the political revanchism of the Sandinist Front, which promotes strikes and riots whenever it suits its leaders, while the Labor Ministry remains graciously tolerant.

How is it possible that pressure is being exerted on the government periodically, when we are not even thinking of producing? For if there is no production, there is no foreign exchange. What is happening is that the government does not have the capacity to control the state, because the Army and the police will only accept orders issued by their own high commands.

The president of the Republic is the titular head, the Supreme Commander, of the Armed Forces. However, as the situation now stands in Nicaragua, this is not working because these military gentlemen only obey the slogans of their party, the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front], and for this reason it is very difficult to achieve a unity of will among those who truly want an overall upsurge on the national level.

The Sandinists own enterprises, but they are doing nothing to make them productive. They act like the peasant who gave his cow to a friend who had good pastureland and fodder, and when the cow calved, took away the offspring and told his friend to take care of the cow. These gentlemen spend their time applying to the government for financing. Since the economy is in a precarious situation as a result of the total ruin in which the Sandinists themselves left it, the government finds itself unable to meet these demands. This failure is causing the stagnation of our economy, entailing a series of bankruptcies for which the Sandinists are triumphantly heaping the blame on the government. As far as can be seen, it will not be possible to bring about a sustained upsurge in the national economy.

The government must come to understand this game being played by the only people who truly desire the collapse of the economy, so that they can boast of being the champions of democracy in our country.

When the government sponsored the slogan "All of Us for the Blue and White Route" as its slogan, did the Sandinists accept it sincerely? Are they capable of understanding the rules of the game which are leading us along the path toward a true state of law that can give birth to and consolidate a democratic system? Are they capable of respecting the rights of others? Are they even capable, for a single moment, of legislating? Could they demonstrate the aptitude for managing a business?

In response to all of these questions, the Sandinists have shown that the only thing for which they have an aptitude is being negative toward everything that means overall progress for the country.

It is completely contradictory that having demonstrated their total incapacity throughout their 10 years of misgoverning, they are sabotaging this government, which is struggling to rebuild what they have ruined with their clumsy and adventuristic policy of destruction and death. These gentlemen should acquire some patriotic inclination, if only a little, in their way of thinking, so as to truly help this government to consolidate a democratic system in which law, order, and justice can shine, to the benefit of all citizens of Nicaragua.

For all of these reasons, foreign aid cannot provide a definitive solution to our extremely serious national problems. The ball is in the court of the FSLN gentlemen, and they should understand that if "All of Us for the Blue and White Route" is the slogan, it is they who have a patriotic obligation to work sincerely with the current government on a transition to democracy. If they continue with their evil intention of sabotaging and damaging the government by every possible means, this attitude will be condemned by all conscientious Nicaraguans, at home and abroad, who truly love Nicaragua. It is a question of setting aside hostile attitudes and consolidating democracy—the only alternative offering peace and progress for all of our people.

* FSLN, Education Ministry Discussed

93CA0011D Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 5 Oct 92 p 14

[Commentary by Napoleon Chow]

[Text] Any observer with a nose for politics visiting Nicaragua for the first time would immediately discern the strategic importance of the MED [Ministry of Education] to the Sandinist Front, and there is good reason. Although the Sandinists retained control of the military, police, and court authorities, they turned into an instant bourgeoisie and entrenched themselves in the university sector. The MED is the institution that gives the Front the opportunity to reproduce itself ideologically. When the young people knock at the doors of the university, they have already been basically educated. This is why it is desirable to gain control of young minds beginning at a conveniently malleable age.

The ideological interests of the Front also include the desirability of controlling the MED for a business purpose. It is to give jobs to that Sandinist clientele and the political activists who were unable to line their pockets thanks to the "pinata," and who need the state to survive since there is no private enterprise sector to employ them. The MED is, after all, the largest employer in Nicaragua.

Although the attack on Dr Humberto Belli, the minister of the MED, has taken on an intensity filled with fury and spite in connection with the national holidays, including, ironically, charges that the minister is repressive (from those who are veritable masters of the art of repression), the Sandinists have had their sights trained on the minister since he first took office. In fact, the MED is the state institution directly responsible for inculcating and cultivating a sense of patriotism in the future citizens. Each traditional patriotic celebration omitted from the Sandinist catechism should serve as a warning to the Front that its ability to remain forever in the memories of young people is becoming more precarious. This is the reason for the need to promote spectacles to remind Nicaragua that the Sandinist movement is not dead, and that it will simply continue to fight, and if necessary, to destroy.

It would have been very easy for the Front to destroy or neutralize a minister lacking in political perspicacity and clear objectives in terms of educational goals. The task, of course, would have been infinitely easier with a minister lacking conviction or integrity. However, to the great benefit of education in Nicaragua, Minister Belli, apart from having a professional background no one can challenge, has educational convictions as specific as they are broad. He also knows his old comrades in struggle very well. He, too, was a Sandinist. This has enabled him to provide leadership characterized by a mixture of flexibility and firmness. To illustrate the flexibility, the National Education Council includes well-known figures in the Sandinist world such as Dr Carlos Tunnermann and Commander Dora Maria Tellez. In a demonstration of firmness, he has removed the Sandinist activists who went beyond their trade-union assignments to provoke confrontations for the sole purpose of engaging in political terrorism and educational boycotts.

In all probability, one of the unpardonable (for the Front) actions of Minister Belli was the eradication of the anguishing legacy of the "Carlitos." The people of Nicaragua can relax, calm in the conviction that the "Carlitos" will not return.

This will not happen even if a minister of the Sandinist persuasion assumes office one day. Why? Because there are no longer any socialist, Marxist, Leninist, or Sandinist ideals to preach. The Front has been left without a program or a model of society for which to fight, other than the vague concept of "popular gains" and criticism of the "neoliberal state." The only thing the Front can do for now is to pursue a desperate search for a way to survive. That is what it is doing—surviving, whatever it takes. It is possible that it can succeed in this effort for some years. It will, however, require an attempt, at all costs, to forget a past that will not leave them alone (and for which they will be remembered). They will be without any noble future to which to aspire. The Front will survive as nothing but a party without convictions, dedicated to safeguarding its economic interests and its share of power. This is the inglorious destiny of a political organization that had its opportunity, but, like all its socialist counterparts in Europe, lacked the knowledge and the ability to take advantage of it.

Panama

Two Fragmentation Grenades Found at Post Office

PA1911235192 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Two fragmentation grenades were found on 19 November at the parcel pick-up section of the post office at the El Dorado shopping mall.

The police cordoned off the area of the post office in El Dorado. The grenades were found inside a package from Illinois, United States addressed to Carmen Jaen, approximately 38. Upon opening the package, the customs officials realized it was explosive war materiel.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified post office employee] Of course I was scared. I had never seen those things before in my life.

[Unidentified reporter] What did you see? Two grenades?

[Employee] Yes. Two fragmentation grenades.

[Reporter] What was the reaction of the woman who tried to claim the package?

[Employee] She did not appear to be nervous or anything. When the package was opened, I saw it had two grenades and she told me they were toys. But I said: Toys? These cannot be toys and called a coworker. My coworker told me they were not toys. Then she said: Wait for me, I will return in a while.

[Reporter] Did the PTJ [Judicial Technical Police] confirm the contents were fragmentation grenades?

[Employee] Yes. They said they were fragmentation grenades. [end recording]

Carmen Jaen did not return to pick up the package with the two grenades.

Meanwhile, the PTJ continues to investigate and is trying to locate the recipient of the deadly package.

Arosemena Files Lawsuit Against Attorney General

PA1911234792 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Report by Ciro Ortega in Panama City]

[Text] General Customs Director Rodrigo Arosemena filed on the afternoon of 19 November a lawsuit against Attorney General Rogelio Cruz, charging him with contempt.

[Begin Arosemena recording] We are here with Doctor Alveen Weeden to file a lawsuit and ask the Supreme Court of Justice to charge the attorney general with contempt. You and the people know we filed an amparo writ against the attorney general several months ago, because we believed he was violating our constitutional rights. The court accepted the writ, which stated the attorney general had requested my dismissal, and issued a ruling in our favor. The court said there was no crime involved and the case should be shelved. Nevertheless, the attorney general violated the laws of the Republic of Panama, went over the court's head, countered the law, and continued with the investigation. He must believe he is above the law. We believe he is guilty of contempt toward a Supreme Court of Justice ruling. [end recording]

According to Arosemena, Rogelio Cruz has launched a persecution campaign against him and wants to use the import duties' case against him, even though the Supreme Court of Justice said no crime was involved.

[Begin recording] [Arosemena] He wants to conduct an audit and an investigation. A resolution was issued after the court's ruling and that is contempt.

[Ortega] Why is he doing this? What is your opinion?

[Arosemena] It is obviously a persecution against employees who are doing something for this country. [end recording]

Legislator Investigates U.S. Drug Trafficker Murder

PA1911194292 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 19 Nov 92 pp 1, 72, 73

[By Aneldo Arosemena]

[Text] Honorable Legislator Leo Gonzalez, chairman of the Legislative Assembly Drug Affairs Committee, is investigating the case of U.S. drug trafficker Joseph Williams, who died of poisoning after Attorney General Rogelio Cruz freed him.

This journalist learned that Williams, who was captured in Veraguas on 16 September 1990 with 300 kg of cocaine on him (according to a Judicial Technical Police [PTJ] report), was freed by Cruz with no legal basis after he had spent three months in jail. Legal sources and the Drug Affairs Committee chaired by Gonzalez described this action as illegal, because it violated Article 2167 of the Judicial Code, which states no bail may be granted to individuals charged with drug trafficking. Moreover, Law 23 of December 1986 states individuals linked to such cases cannot be freed.

A media source reported the payment of $100,000 during phase one of an operation to murder Williams. The investigation seeks to determine why Williams was freed, why Cruz freed him, and why Williams was murdered the very day he was freed. EL SIGLO obtained an intelligence report prepared by Detective Arnoldo Munoz, of the PTJ Operations Department, and addressed to Carlos Landero, who was serving at the time as chief of the Office of Coordination and International Affairs. Munoz gives details on the arrest of Williams and five others in Veraguas who had in their possession 300 kg of cocaine.

This intelligence report stated that the criminal organization to which Williams belonged had a body shop on National Avenue as its legal "front" and this organization was handling 900 kg of drugs each month between the United States and Panama. This information was shared with the DEA, which promised to investigate in the United States and other countries information provided by the PTJ including names and telephone numbers.

This intelligence report is dated 6 December, that is, prior to Williams' murder on 22 December, the same day he was freed from jail. The report identified the five individuals who were with Williams at the moment of his arrest as: Alberto Torres, Narciso Gomez Carrillo, Jose Fuentes Melendez, Eliecer Blanco, and Vicente Sanchez. Their whereabouts are not known.

The "investigator" also obtained a copy of the 19 December document, which was signed by Attorney General Cruz and then Drug Secretary Victor Aldana, stating the U.S. citizen, who had been arrested under charges of crimes "against public health," (sic) justified his presence at the arrest site by "claiming his car had disappeared the previous evening and on the day of his arrest had received a telephone call advising him that his vehicle was seen overturned on the highway to Mariato, and that is where he headed." (sic)

In that same document Cruz and Aldana said they freed Williams because he had already served three months which allowed his lawyer to file a petition for his release. These two factors led them to grant Williams provisional freedom "without precluding a future arrest if warranted."

The document signed by Cruz and Aldana contradicts the intelligence report prepared by Detective Arnoldo Munoz. Moreover, Williams' death, which has not yet been solved, showed that the person who wanted to kill Williams also wanted him freed.

Legislator Warns About Impending U.S. Troop Exit

PA1911221592 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 19 Nov 92 p 12c

[Report by Carlos Vargas]

[Text] Legislator Alonso Fernandez, president of the National Assembly's Canal Affairs Commission, warned on 18 November that the withdrawal of U.S. troops from the Canal area will leave 3,000 Panamanians jobless and reduce Panama's economy by $500 million.

Legislator Fernandez' statements followed the Southcom authorities' announcement on the reduction of its military forces starting in 1993, in accordance with the Panama Canal Treaties signed between Panama and the United States in 1977.

Legislator Fernandez said that the reduction of U.S. troops based on the Canal include the reduction of 600 Armed Forces members and 3,000 U.S. families.

Fernandez said "Panama will lose a great economic injection" following the withdrawal of troops from the Canal area. He said that the only thing that "could make things change" is President Guillermo Endara, who constitutionally is empowered to amend the Canal treaty.

The U.S. Southern Command has about 12,000 military troops on the Canal, which must leave before the year 2000, according to the treaties.

Government Ministry Submits 1993 Budget Request

PA1911190892 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 19 Nov 92 p26

[Text] The total budget for the Government and Justice Ministry for 1993 totals 159.3 million balboas, according to a report submitted to the Legislative Assembly's Budget Committee, which is currently reviewing the 1991 budget.

The ministry's budget consists of 153 million balboas for operational expenses and 6.3 million for investment. The investment budget includes 753,000 balboas for the Juvenile Court, which will be spent on repairs at the Tocumen Minors Center and the construction of a Minors Center in Chitre, Herrera Province. The amount allocated for these projects totals 350,000 balboas. The ministry plans to spend 495,000 balboas on investments in the National Police, which include the remodeling of San Miguelito's National Police station and the building of a station in the Torrijos-Carter neighborhood.

In addition, 117,500 balboas have been earmarked for investment expenses in the General Directorate of the Post Office and Telecommunications, 140,000 balboas for the Immigration Department, 160,000 balboas for the National Marine Service, and 2.140 million balboas for the General Directorate for Community Development.

Minister Juan Chevalier, who submitted the budget, was accompanied by National Police Director Oswaldo Fernandez; Abraham Crocamo, chief of the National Civil Defense System; Juvenile Court Judge Elsa Mendez de Garcia, and others.

Striking Government Employees Reject Proposal

PA1911190692 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 19 Nov 92 p 2a

[Report by Juan M. Diaz]

[Text] On 18 November, the Post Office and Telecommunications Office, the University of Panama [UP], and Social Security Fund [CSS] administrative employees rejected a government proposal to pay their wage adjustments, which have been overdue for several years, with promissory notes or bonds.

According to the employees, the promissory notes, proposed by government authorities, are unacceptable as they will only allow government employees to fall into the hands of speculators.

The employees of the three institutions are on strike because the government has not come forth with wage adjustments, job reclassifications, and overdue benefits since the 1980's. The strikers have requested the amounts owed them be paid in cash.

CSS administrative employees throughout the country have been on strike since 13 November. They demand the payment of 30 million balboas in the form of job reclassifications and unpaid benefits.

The Association of UP Employees and the Association of UP Professors have stopped their administrative and tutoring work until they are paid wage adjustments amounting to 25 million balboas.

The post office employees went on strike on 16 November to demand money that has been owed them for the past 23 years. According to a report, post office employees earn between 200 and 250 balboas per month, including those who have been working for the institution for the past 20 years.

Argentina

Menem Briefed on Attacks, U.S. Ties, Other Issues

PY1911214292 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1656 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 19 Nov (NA)—The government formally admitted today the existence of the so-called "People's Revolutionary Organization (ORP)" which claimed responsibility for the attacks perpetrated against two bank branches today.

This information was provided by Communications Secretary Raul Burzaco, who said "it is assumed that these people (the terrorist organization) have a press abroad," especially in Uruguay. But he said: "That has to be corroborated." He added that this connection "is being investigated."

The ORP recently claimed responsibility for the attacks against the building of YPF [Government Oil Deposits], while the Uruguayan daily LA REPUBLICA was the media organ which published several communiques from that organization.

The attacks against the bank branches were evaluated this morning in the Olivos residence, where President Carlos Menem received a detailed report from Interior Minister Jose Luis Manzano on the attacks against the Rio and Boston Banks.

Manzano met with President Menem before the cabinet meeting, which began at 0900. The issues discussed in the meeting were the new budget control system, fishing negotiations with the EEC, and relations with the United Kingdom, among other things. [passage omitted]

Burzaco said Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella briefed the cabinet on the fishing negotiations with the EEC, relations with Great Britain, and the meeting he held recently with the "Kelpers," as the inhabitants of the Malvinas Islands are called.

Regarding the search for oil in the South Atlantic and the zone surrounding the Malvinas Islands, Di Tella told the cabinet "there are no restrictions on the concessions, and therefore Argentine companies can participate."

Burzaco then said that Di Tella informed President Menem that according to the talks he held recently with leaders of the Democratic Party in Washington, relations with the United States "will not change."

Burzaco added: "The economic guidelines, the announcements made by Bill Clinton, and basically the type of people Clinton is putting on his team indicates that the U.S. Government will maintain its current conservative line."

Another issue discussed by Di Tella was the possibility that Argentina and Chile will join NAFTA [North American Free Trade Agreement], signed by the United States, Mexico, and Canada.

Burzaco also referred to the situation of Alberto Lestelle, programming and coordination secretary for the prevention of drug abuse and for the antinarcotics struggle, who was accused by Mario Noguera Vera in Brazil of hiring him to murder a drug trafficker.

In this regard Burzaco said that Lestelle [words indistinct] which was also corroborated by the SIDE [Secretariat for State Intelligence], that "this character, based on his criminal record, is a psychopath. The investigation involves whether he acted on his own, because he is also an exhibitionist and other things like that."

Burzaco said: "We do not know whether he acted alone, or through an organization reacting to the great progress being made in the control and investigation of this issue (drug trafficking)."

Burzaco added that Lestelle has been confirmed in his position "because there was nothing preventing it." He also said Lestelle read a report to the cabinet without the presence of Menem, who left [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

Bombs Explode; Police Officers Injured

PY1911174892 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1325 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Nov (TELAM)—One of the two bombs that exploded this morning at two bank automatic teller machines—just 20 blocks from each other—in the Flores neighborhood caused injuries to two Federal Police officers who were hit by flying debris.

The first bomb, of medium intensity, exploded at 0110 at the Rio Bank branch on the corner of Caona and Cuenca Streets. Two 50th Precinct police officers who were guarding the place were injured. The shockwave broke windows and cracked walls.

Some 20 minutes later, at 0130, another bomb exploded at the automatic teller machine at the Boston Bank branch on Pumacahua and Rivadavia Streets. This bomb only broke windows.

The two police officers are being treated at the Churruca Hospital. The hospital has "deferred its prognosis" on them.

Deputy Police Inspector Domingo Celusso, second in command at the 50th Police Precinct, suffered several burns on his right leg and both hands, and he was hit by splinters in the face and eyes. The Churruca Hospital reported that Celusso will be operated on in the next few hours due to the serious impairment of his sight.

Corporal Alfredo Severino's prognosis indicates that he was hit by "splinters in his left thigh, chest, and face."

Federal Police Explosives Division experts have said—although no official report has yet been issued—that the bombs comprised galvanized pipes with clocks and electromechanical timers made up of clocks, batteries, wires, and a small amount of explosive.

The self-styled People's Revolutionary Organization (ORP) claimed responsibility for the attack through a communique read to Juan Pablo Perez of Radio America at 0753.

This organization on 1 May claimed responsibility for blowing up the Buen Aire Bank automatic teller machine on Corrientes Avenue between Maipu and Florida Streets, and for a subsequent attack on YPF [Government Oil Deposits] in the last week of October.

The investigation is being conducted by the Federal Police 38th and 50th Precincts.

Government To Respond to Drug Trafficking Charges

PY1911233092 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1710 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 19 Nov (TELAM)—Alberto Lestelle, programming and coordination secretary for the prevention of drug abuse and the antinarcotics struggle, has stated that the Foreign Ministry has been ordered to adopt measures in the wake of the sudden statement made in Brazil by the alleged "repentant" Mario Noguera Vega, "probably in an attempt to tarnish the Argentine Government."

Lestelle said the Foreign Ministry will take the appropriate steps to discuss the matter with the Brazilian Government. He added that this attitude, "which seeks to smear the prestige of the democratic system, will be clarified in due time."

He made these remarks to Radio Splendid when asked whether Noguera Vega's statements aired by the O GLOBO television network could be "remittance of charges due" to the Argentine Government for its attitude after President Fernando Collor de Mello's suspension. O GLOBO promoted Collor's candidacy.

Noguera Vega, a Paraguayan with Argentine citizenship, revealed that Lestelle, his security chief Ruben Torres, and Carlos Segura, an inspector general of the judicial branch, hired him to kill Argentine drug trafficker Francisco Sergio di Fiori in Brazil.

Lestelle reaffirmed his hypothesis that Noguera Vega—who is "paranoid," according to a psychological study done at the request of the Argentine court in 1985—might have been "used by various sectors," such as drug traffickers. He made it clear, however, that Noguera Vega is not a drug trafficker, and that "he served 23 years of imprisonment on charges other than drug trafficking." An arrest warrant was issued in Paraguay, where he was indicted on charges of robbery and murder. He was released early in Argentina, where in 1991 his 9 year prison term was reduced by 15 percent. He should have been released on 18 August 1994.

Lestelle said it is not yet known "whether this man is paranoid, or whether some elements of power are forcing him to act this way."

He stated: "We have found who Noguera Vega is, his characteristics, criminal records, and how dangerous he is. We are now investigating whether drug traffickers or political or economic elements are involved in the case." [passage omitted]

International Drug Trafficking Ring Disbanded

PY1911001492 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1956 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Nov (TELAM)—Through the arrest of 11 drug traffickers and the seizure of almost 100 kg of cocaine, Moron Federal Judge Gerardo Larrambere has dismantled an international trafficking ring linked to the "gang of narco jet-setters" [banda de narcobacanes] that was recently disbanded by his San Isidro counterpart Roberto Marquevich.

A total of 20 individuals have been arrested by the two judges. Four other individuals, who were detained for their presumed involvement, have been set free for "lack of evidence."

The number of detainees will probably increase at any moment if the investigations being carried out by the two federal judges continue successfully. The judges firmly believe more people are involved, some of them very "important."

This was confirmed to TELAM by Judge Larrambere who said members of the dismantled ring, from whom 21 kg of cocaine was seized, distributed the drugs in Buenos Aires and in Uruguay, from where the drug was shipped to Brazil.

The international ring discovered by the judge is connected to the important trafficking organizations dismantled in Rosario, where 30 kg of cocaine was seized, and in Salta, where 40 kg of extremely pure cocaine was seized.

The procedure conducted by Marquevich was less spectacular concerning the amount of drug seized—some 700 grams—but it gained more notoriety because of the personalities detained. They include the wealthy Dolores Blaquier, "playboy" Ernesto Pavlowsky, and Polo player Fabian Ledesma, among others.

Larrambere told TELAM that the connection with the ring of "narco jet-setters" was Arnaldo "Arny" Branchini, against whom Marquevich last week issued an arrest warrant for "possession of narcotics for sale."

Di Tella Supports Trade Rapprochement With PRC

PY1811202092 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1216 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 18 Nov (NA)—Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella has emphasized the importance of trade rapprochement with the PRC, the economy of which "is growing by 10 percent per year." He pointed out that the "transformation in the PRC is unusual. No other country has grown so much for so many consecutive years."

Concluding his long tour of that populous Asian nation, Di Tella said: "This proves that a country that makes the correct economic decisions can expect to obtain good results." [passage omitted]

He explained: "I do not expect trips like the one I have just completed to increase exports overnight, but I do believe they help." He added that Argentina "should export twice as much as it does now."

He said "there is a dual situation in the PRC because politically it follows communism." Di Tella likened the situation to that in Chile during Pinochet's regime: "There is no political freedom, but there is great economic freedom." [passage omitted]

Russian Deputy Minister Arrives 17 Nov

PY1811002892 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2155 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Nov (TELAM)—Russian Foreign Deputy Minister Georgiy Mamedov arrived this afternoon on an official visit to Argentina.

Mamedov will stay in this capital until 19 November. He will attend various working meetings designed to prepare for President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Argentina, the date for which is to be determined sometime in 1993.

Tomorrow Mamedov will meet with President Menem, Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella, and his Argentine counterpart Fernando Petrella.

UK's Prince Philip Arrives 16 Nov

PY1611215592 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2017 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Nov (TELAM) — The Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Philip, arrived in Argentina at 1756 [1956 GMT] on board the plane that the British Royal Family uses for its trips. Thus, the Prince begins a visit to the country.

The four-turbined plane with license No. Ze-700 taxied to the military sector of the metropolitan airport, where the Duke was met by Humphrey Maud, British ambassador to Argentina; Vice Commodore Ricardo Grunet, commander of the military sector; and Cesar Brea, president of the Wildlife Foundation.

The Duke boarded a vehicle at the foot of the plane's steps. He did not speak to the press, and left the airport bound for the Miatt Hotel in this capital.

Brazil

Chamber Elects Open Vote for Collor Decision

PY1911023392 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] The Chamber of Deputies will use an open vote in deciding whether or not suspended President Fernando Collor is to be tried by the Federal Supreme Court, STF, on charges of common crimes.

The suspended president will be notified tomorrow that the STF has requested authorization to begin proceedings.

The same system was used in authorizing the opening of the impeachment process. A minimum of 336 deputies will have to vote in favor. The system requiring a secret session of the Chamber of Deputies for authorizing the prosecution of the president for common crimes has changed, as the deputies will cast their votes over the microphone, during an open session of the plenum.

The suspended president will be notified tomorrow, at Casa da Dinda, that the STF has requested authorization to prosecute him on charges of common crimes.

Meanwhile, the attorney general has filed charges with the Chamber of Deputies Justice Commission, and gave a deadline approximately 15 days hence for defense laywers to reply.

Chamber of Deputies President Ibsen Pinheiro declined to make an exact prediction, but admitted that if everything works well, deputies might decide in less than a month on whether the suspended president will have to face charges of unlawful association and passive corruption.

Collor Rejects Chamber Notification on Prosecution

PY1911175092 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1500 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Live relay by Alexandre Garcia from Brasilia]

[Text] Chamber of Deputies' envoys this morning went to Casa da Dinda to give removed President Fernando Collor this notification stating that he will have 10 sessions to defend himself in case the Chamber of Deputies authorizes the Supreme Court to prosecute him for common crimes.

The president wrote these words and returned the notification. Collor said he does not agree to the notification for two reasons: first, because the defense periods will overlap because he already is defending himself in the Senate and could not simultaneously defend himself in the Chamber of Deputies; second, because he does not agree to last-minute modifications of the rules of the game. The modifications were introduced yesterday.

In order to understand this matter, it is necessary to recall that the open voting system was used at the 29 September session, in keeping with the law that sets conditions for authorizing the president's impeachment, in which case it sets forth that an open voting system should be used.

If the Chamber of Deputies has to decide whether to authorize the Supreme Court to prosecute a congressman or the president of the Republic, the voting system should be established by the chamber's internal regulations. The chamber's internal regulations provided for a secret voting system until yesterday, when the chamber changed the procedure to the open voting system.

This was criticized by former Justice Minister Ibrahim Abi Ackel, who is a jurist and who said the modification violates the principle of previous validity of the law. This means that once the prosecution has begun, the law may not be modified if it will harm the accused party. It may be modified only if it will benefit the accused party.

In addition, there were other critical remarks. For example, the modification was said to demonstrate distrust in the consistency of the 441 deputies, who on 29 September submitted the request for the president's impeachment to the Senate.

In light of the aforementioned, the removed president's lawyers today will file a notification asking Attorney General Aristides Junqueira to provide a better explanation of an interview that he granted in London on the bribery attempt. The president's lawyers also will file an injunction writ against the Chamber of Deputies, alleging defense curtailment.

At 1600 today, Chamber of Deputies President Ibsen Pinheiro will refer to the removed president's reaction.

Army Commander Criticizes Economic Situation

PY1811231692 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 18 Nov 92 p 8

[Text] Brasilia—In a statement entitled "Guidelines for the Army High Command," Army Minister Zenildo Lucena harshly criticized yesterday the national economic situation as characterized by "persistent inflation, accompanied by an economic recession that has already been going on for several years." In his first speech to the Army High Command, Lucena paid special attention to a study of the Brazilian internal situation, noting that the Army must always be present in areas of tension, and especially in the Amazon, because of the actions of mine prospectors in the border areas.

Lucena emphasized the disorganization of the federal administrative body as a result of the changes made in the first year of the Fernando Collor administration, the decline in tax collection, the uncertainty created by the impeachment process against suspended President Collor, and the interim nature of the presidency of Itamar Franco.

The Army document, distributed yesterday to the High Command which was holding a meeting at Army General Headquarters, says: "Although agricultural production, mining exploration, some industrial sectors, and businesses prosper in many regions, the large cities suffer from the effects of unemployment, the overpopulation of poor neighborhoods, the high rate of crime, and the poor operation of public services. The economic problems have contributed to greater social inequalities leading to the proletarianization of the middle class and to an increase in the number of people at the misery level."

Lucena also criticized the actions of international nongovernmental organizations, reinforcing the influence of international organizations, which seek "to make acceptable to certain people, even in Brazil, such concepts as 'limited sovereignty' and the 'duty of interference.'" Lucena noted that for "radical Brazilians" the end of the conflict between communism and capitalism, and the conclusion of the political opening process in Brazil, represent an end to external support and the elimination of the ideological justification for "taking over power."

After evaluating the national and international situation, Minister Zenildo Lucena gave the Army guidelines for the next decade, based on four factors: realism, simplicity, leadership, and the upkeep of morale. Lucena also mentioned the Army Ministry's intention to continue struggling for equal salaries among the public servants of the three governmental branches.

Denies Criticizing Economic Policy

PY1911003192 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] General Zenildo Lucena, the Army minister, has denied having criticized the current Brazilian economic policy or the government of Itamar Franco in a document he released a few days ago.

He said that he would be an imbecile to criticize the economic policy of a government which has been in power for such a short period of time, and of which he is a member. He added that the document illustrates the economic situation and demonstrates the situation of the Army and the need to rationalize and reduce costs.

The Army minister was today in Salvador where he presided over the graduation of the third group of the Army Administration School. It is the first such group to include women. He also met with Bahia Governor Antonio Carlos Magalhaes who participated in the ceremony.

Franco Criticizes Military, Economy Ministers

PY2011125392 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 Nov 92 p 4

[Article by Sandra Sato]

[Text] Juiz de Fora—Interim President Itamar Franco, who is not pleased with the statements made by Army Minister General Zenildo Zoroastro de Lucena about the bad government performance, yesterday threatened to appoint a civilian as Army minister. "I could appoint, if I wanted to, a civilian as Army minister," Itamar said, recalling that in the past civilians occupied the Aeronautics and Navy ministries. Itamar also criticized Navy Minister Ivan Serpa and the economy ministers who do not approve of the president's populist ideas. Itamar canceled his return to Brasilia scheduled for 19 November and summoned Zoroastro, Serpa, and Aeronautics Minister Lelio Viana Lobo for a meeting in Juiz de Fora on 19 November at 1500.

"The military ministers also represent civilian sectors of the nation," Itamar warned. "Command of the Armed Forces is by the president of the Republic, and in this case, by the interim president."

Last night, during an Army command meeting, Gen. Zoroastro distributed a document entitled "Guidelines for the Army Command" in which he clearly expressed the Army's dissatisfaction with the economic crisis, which has affected soldiers' wages. Zoroastro denounced "a certain disorganization in the federal administrative apparatus," which suffered changes during Collor's first year in power and again with Itamar.

Allegedly not knowing the complete contents of the document, Itamar called Military Household Chief General Fernando Cardoso to the Misericordia Clinic, where his mother is hospitalized, to ask him for explanations. Itamar wanted to know if by referring to a disorganization the minister was referring to his administration.

Before listening to Gen. Cardoso, Itamar said he doubted that Gen. Zoroastro would criticize his administration. The Army minister "could not disagree" with the guidelines of his administration because he is part of the government, Itamar said. The interim president made a public scolding: "A minister has the authority to conduct his ministry, but it must be clearly established that what he may say outside is what is reflected inside."

Serpa also was questioned by Itamar for having refused to accept even beginning a discussion about the possible creation of a defense ministry. For Itamar, if Brazil heads toward a parliamentarian government system, the idea will have to be urgently analyzed. He recalled that the government system will be reevaluated in the 21 April plebiscite.

The interim president also expressed his displeasure with the economy ministers who, in private conversations, allegedly complained about Itamar's populist attitudes. "Is it that being populist is to think of the common citizen?" Itamar criticized. He regretted that economists are not aware that during the two and a half years of Collor's administration high interest rates persisted in the country despite the tight monetary control, and that Brazil has been thrown into a deep recession and unemployment.

Itamar also criticized the businessmen "who promised to do their part." He promised "a merciless war" against speculators "until they learn that the production sector is much more important than speculating." He also blamed suspended President Fernando Collor for the situation the country is in, revealing part of the speech he will make in Congress. "The country was based on marketing and pyrotechnics," he charged. According to Itamar, this has led to the disorganization in the administrative apparatus. He said that in only five months Collor spent $100 million, and he "stopped paying the hospitals and frustrated the population." He also attacked the suspended president's foreign policy for wanting to join the First World with "their cigars rather than on our own legs."

Itamar Franco Criticizes Collor, Projects

PY2011121692 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 19 Nov 92 p 3

[Text] Juiz de Fora—Suspended President Fernando Collor did not escape a spate of criticism from his successor, who initially put under suspicion the Xingo hydroelectric power plant project—Collor's "apple of his eye"—on the border between Sergipe State and Alagoas State. Itamar ordered an audit of the hydroelectric [power plant project] and criticized the advertising expenses incurred during the months preceding the impeachment vote. According to Itamar, Collor spent $100 million in five months. In Itamar Franco's opinion, Collor left the population frustrated and poorer.

Itamar Franco criticized: "The theory that we are entering the First World only exists in their minds. We are entering the First World with their cigars and not using our own legs."

Concerning Collor's criticism that Brazil will enter the "fifth world" under the Itamar government, Itamar ironically quipped: "If we take into account this country's misery, we are well below the 'fifth world.'"

Concerning the Xingo hydroelectric project, Itamar said: "The government is spending $500 million. We have to check the costs because the prices are quite high."

Itamar also ordered an audit of Cosipa [Sao Paulo Iron and Steel Company]. He is unconcerned about the devaluation of the state-owned company's shares at the stock exchange caused by internal audits.

Itamar Franco said: "We actually want to know what is happening in these state-owned companies. It does not help to foist a share that sometimes is not worth that much. It is necessary for the companies to be efficient. It is necessary to see if they are yielding profits and if these profits are being applied socially."

The president criticized the budget proposal Collor sent to Congress. Itamar noted: "We only had 6 percent for investments. Already we do not have any funds to pay the retirees in April. And we do not have any funds to pay for the equal salaries treatment. It is an unrealistic budget."

Itamar Franco said Collor did not understand that the expression "social pact" involves a dialogue between Congress and society.

Itamar Franco criticized: "I discovered a country based on marketing [preceding word in English], on pyrotechnics. I discovered a country that disorganized the administrative apparatus, that was not paying retirees, and that spent $100 million in five months for advertising alone."

Ministers Criticize Interim President's Style

PY2011173092 Rio de Jeniero O GLOBO in Portuguese 19 Nov 92 p 3

[Article by Jorge Bastos Moreno]

[Text] Brasilia—It is not President Itamar Franco alone who is criticizing his ministers. They also are criticizing the president of the Republic, and the ministers are already beginning to become discouraged with Itamar's style. Some of them are even hinting at leaving their posts if the president does not become aware that he cannot publicly question the government's actions.

The disagreement over utility rate adjustments has been one of the sore points. By coincidence, the loudest complaints come from ministers who are members of Congress.

A spokesman for the ministers said: "Due to the lack of official opposition Franco is making his own."

Mines and Energy Minister Paulino Cicero told a friend that he is not only worried, he is "terrified" by the president's stubbornness to tie utility rates to public company costs. According to figures provided by the PFL [Liberal Front Party] and the PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party], Petrobras [Brazilian Oil Corporation] is losing 10 billion cruzeiros per day because gasoline prices have not been adjusted since 3 October.

"The loss displaces all government fiscal adjustment efforts because it will have to be recovered someday, and, what is worse, someone will have to pay for it," a government representative said.

At least five ministers—Paulino Cicero, Economy Minister Gustavo Krause, Planning Minister Paulo Haddad, Health Minister Jamil Haddad, and Social Action Minister Jutahy Magalhaes—have already complained to congressional leaders about the difficult administrative coexistence with the president.

Charges Against Former Governor Dropped

PY2011164592 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] The Congressional Investigating Committee [CPI] on VASP [Sao Paulo Airline] ended up divided into pro-and anti-Quercia groups, but it ultimately approved a report dismissing charges against former Sao Paulo Governor Orestes Quercia.

In his report, CPI coordinator Pedro Correa, Liberal Front Party-Pernambuco State, gave a clean bill of competence to Quercia.

The report states that the Sao Paulo Government conducted the VASP privatization in a clear, normal fashion.

However, the report charges former Economy Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello with misconduct for having authorized the refinancing by the Bank of Brazil of a $270 million debt of the by-then already privatized airline company.

The report adds that the government must investigate the Canhedo group, the buyer of VASP, for having overvalued the assets it offered as collateral for the loan.

The report also notes that the Attorney General's Office must investigate Jose Nunes Lopes, aka Ze Portugues, a friend and partner of Orestes Quercia. The CPI has not found, however, anything irregular in Nunes' tax statements.

Six members voted in favor of the report while the other six voted against it. CPI chairman Jose Thomaz Nono, Brazilian Democratic Movement Party-Alagoas State, abstained, but CPI coordinator Correa's vote counted as two. Thus, the report was approved by a seven to six vote.

The report now will be submitted to the Attorney General's Office for further investigation.

Witness to Repression Era Comes Forward

PY1911203092 Sao Paulo VEJA in Portuguese 18 Nov 92 pp 20-21

[Commentary by Expedito Filho]

[Text] Marival Chaves do Canto is 45 years old, black, muscular, and well preserved for his age. He was born in Bahia, but lived many years in Sao Paulo. He now has a modest business in Vitoria, Espirito Santo. From a distance he is like any other citizen. At close range, he has some pecularities. Chaves, by which name he is known, is a tense man who is used to repressing his emotions. He uses a mixed language of police and political terms. His vocabulary often includes words like "subversives" to identify the militants of leftist organizations, and "element" in referring to any one individual. Last week, he closed a long series of declarations to VEJA, and the content of his testimony shows that Chaves is far from being a tranquil individual. He is the first former agent of the Army information organizations to tell everything he knows, with terrible and clarifying detail, about the barbarities perpetrated in the basements during the heavy years of the military dictatorship.

For more than a decade, former Sergeant Chaves has been developing his decision to talk. While he was within the brutal organization, coming in and out of the torture chambers, spending hours reading the testimony of political prisoners, Chaves concentrated on memorizing and writing down details. Last month, he believed that the impeachment of President Fernando Collor had changed the country, and especially the Armed Forces, which remained within legal boundaries as mere spectators to the crisis. He then decided to tell everything. Two weeks ago he called his wife and two daughters, 16 and 18 years of age, to tell them for the first time that he had been involved in the military repression. At first, they were frightened. Later on, with great emotion, they urged him on with his decision to talk. One of his daughters went into the streets to ask for Collor's impeachment, thus joining the movement of painted faces and recalling the rebel years, and only after did she learn that her father had been an active participant in that period. Chaves said: "They believed it was important to tell everything to clear up that part of history." He added: They were right.

The dramatic story of the former sergeant about the life and death of those held in clandestine prisons does not cover the 20 years of dictatorship, and does not have the weight that testimony from a person coordinating what happened might have had, a person who could have had an overall view of the affair. The silent and dirty war in Brazil began after the overthrow of Joao Gulart in 1964. It was not as violent as in Argentina, where the missing numbered nearly 10,000. The dictatorship in Brazil drove 13,000 leftists, disseminated throughout 29 organizations, into action. Members of another 22 organizations chose the path of peaceful resistance. On the other side of the trenches, at least 400 military men were directly involved in clandestine operations. During this period terrorists robbed banks, and kidnapped and murdered people. The other camp made illegal arrests, and tortured and killed these people. In all, over 4,600 people had their political rights suspended, nearly 10,000 individuals were exiled, and 144 persons disappeared during this period.

Chaves' testimony is only part of the story. The importance of his testimony lies in the fact that for the first time someone from inside is revealing facts about the routine of political repression. Cautiously, the former sergeant spoke only of what he was sure about, and avoided mentioning his doubts. On Friday, last week he even boarded a plane for Sao Paulo, from where he took highway SP 255 leading to Avare in the state's interior. There are two bridges in the area, and Chaves wanted to see them to make sure from which one the dead bodies of murdered prisoners were thrown into the water. He was satisfied and relieved. "The military leadership benefitted with positions and commissions during the years of repression," Chaves said. "The silent majority wanted a professional Army, as it is today."

Chaves assured us that he had never tortured anyone, nor was he directly involved in assassinations or in the hiding of dead bodies. "If I had been involved in those things I would not have come forward now," Chaves said. His mission was to evaluate prisoners' testimonies and to compare them with the information provided to the Army by leftist militants turned informers. He joined the Army in 1965. He first served at the War Arsenal in Sao Paulo. Three years later, when he was already a sergeant, he had his first contact with the business of information. "We knew that the People's Revolutionary Vanguard, headed by Captain Carlos Lamarca, was painting a truck with Armed Forces colors to use it in a terrorist operation," Chaves recalls. After taking courses in jungle operations Chaves moved to the Information Operations Group [Destacamento de Operacoes de Informacoes], or DOI, headed by Colonel Carlos Alberto Brilhante Ustra. It was the beginning of his experience with clandestine prisons.

Chaves worked at the Sao Paulo branch of the DOI until 1976. From Sao Paulo he went to Imperatriz, in Maranhao, where he served in a jungle infantry battalion. He was then assigned to Manaus and Brasilia. He served at the Planalto Military Command in 1980. In 1981, Chaves was transferred to the Army Information Center, then in charge of the clandestine prisons. He was assigned to work on security for the then Argentine dictator Leopoldo Galtieri during a visit he made to Brazil. In 1985, he made a little-understood decision. He issued a petition through normal channels, requesting his dismissal from the Army. "It was hard. I could not sleep, and spent nights walking through the house until I decided that I could no longer resist the pressure," Chaves said. Chaves renounced more than 20 years of military service with his dismissal, and lost all the benefits military men receive when they are placed in the reserves. He would have been a captain had he stayed. Today, Chaves is a former sergeant with the advantage that he cannot be punished for talking.

'Record Fine' Imposed on Japanese Trawler Increased

PY2011164292 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television irtuguese 1500 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] The record fine imposed on a Japanese ship fishing for sharks off the Brazilian coast has been increased.

The Brazilian Institute for the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources, IBAMA, has just found out that the ship Shinjo Maru was carrying a larger amount of fish. Thus, the fine was increased from 1.6 billion to 2.1 billion cruzeiros.

* Provisional Measure on Administrative Reform

93SM0043A Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 17-19 Oct 92 p 2

["Text" of Provisional Measure No. 309 dated 16 October 1992; introductory remarks by Eugenia Lopes: "Executive Branch Will Have 20 Ministries"]

[Text] *Brasilia—The establishment of the Council of Economic Affairs, which will be linked directly to the Presidency of the Republic, is the big news in the provisional measure reorganizing the administrative structure of the executive branch, which will now have 20 ministries as well as five other bodies with the status of ministries (the Secretariat of Planning, Budget, and Coordination; the Civilian Household; the General Secretariat of the Presidency; the Military Household; and the Armed Forces General Staff) and one secretariat (of strategic affairs).*

The measure in question, which is to be published in the DIARIO OFICIAL this Monday, says that the Council of Economic Affairs will be advisory in nature and that it will meet when summoned by the president of the republic.

"The council will consist of notables from Congress and the economic area as a whole," the minister-chief of the Civilian Household, Henrique Hargreaves, explained yesterday. The Council of Economic Affairs, which will not have a specific number of members, will be consulted whenever the acting president, Itamar Franco, considers it necessary. According to Minister Hargreaves, the council may even include former ministers in the economic area.

Of the 20 ministries in Itamar Franco's administration, six are new: Environment, Social Welfare, Science and Technology, Regional Integration, Communications, and Industry, Commerce, and Tourism. The Civilian Household is also returning to the Office of the Presidency as a replacement for the Secretariat of the Government.

The Secretariat of Federal Administration, which initially was to have been subordinate to the Ministry of Finance, has ended up attached to the Ministry of Labor. The Bank of Amazonia and the Bank of Northeast Brazil will continue to be subordinate to the Ministry of Finance instead of being transferred to the Ministry of Regional Integration, as originally planned. According to Hargreaves, the ministers who have not yet been taken office are to be sworn in this Wednesday.

Here is the complete text of Provisional Measure No. 309 concerning administrative reform.

Provisional Measure No. 309 dated 16 October 1992.

This measure deals with the organization of the Presidency of the Republic and of the ministries and sets forth other provisions.

The vice president of the republic, exercising the office of president of the republic and pursuant to the powers granted to him by Article 62 of the Constitution, adopts the following Provisional Measure with force of law:

Chapter I: Presidency of the Republic

Section I: Structure

Article 1: The Presidency of the Republic consists basically of the Civilian Household; the General Secretariat; the Secretariat of Planning, Budget, and Coordination; and the Military Household.

Single paragraph: It also includes the following:

a) As consultative bodies for the president of the republic:

1. The Council of the Republic.

2. The National Defense Council.

b) As direct advisory bodies to the president of the republic:

1. The Government Council;

2. the General Advisory Office of the Republic;

3. the Armed Forces High Command;

4. the Armed Forces General Staff; and

5. the Council on Economic Affairs.

c) As bodies for direct and immediate assistance to the president of the republic:

1. The Secretariat of Strategic Affairs and 2. the Institutional Communication Office.

Section II: Purposes and Organization

Article 2: The Civilian Household of the Presidency is responsible for providing the president of the republic with direct and immediate assistance in the performance of his duties, especially as regards the coordination of government action and relations with the National Congress. Its basic structure is as follows:

- Department for Congressional Matters;
- Department for Follow-Up on Government Action;
- Department for Legal Matters;and
- Department for Announcements and Public Relations.

Article 3: For the purpose of assisting the president of the republic directly and immediately in the performance of his duties, especially in the coordination of the Presidency's administrative actions, by providing the services of private secretaries and aides, the General Secretariat of the Presidency has the following basic structure:

- General Under Secretariat;
- Personal Staff;
- Protocol;
- Advisory Office; and
- Secretariat of Internal Control.

Article 4: For the purpose of assisting the president of the republic in coordinating the planning and budget system, including the drafting of regional development plans for inclusion in the national plans and of economic and social development policies, and in monitoring execution of the national development plans, the Secretariat of

Planning, Budget, and Coordination of the Presidency has the following basic structure:

- External Financing Commission;
- Committee for the Evaluation of Foreign Lending;
- Secretariat of Federal Budget;
- Secretariat of Planning and Evaluation;
- Secretariat of International Affairs; and
- Finance-Budget Conciliation Board.

Article 5: For the purpose of providing the president of the republic with direct and immediate assistance in the performance of his duties in matters related to military administration and ensuring the safety of the chief of state and the personal safety of the heads of offices and agencies constituting the Presidency of the Republic as well as that of the respective presidential palaces and residences, the Military Household of the Presidency has the following basic structure:

- Headquarters;
- Navy Department;
- Army Department;
- Aeronautics Department; and
- Security Service.

Article 6: The organization and functioning of the Council of the Republic and the National Defense Council, whose makeup and duties are set forth in the Constitution, will be regulated by a special law.

Single paragraph: The National Defense Council will have as its executive secretary the head of the Secretariat of Strategic Affairs.

Article 7: For the purpose of advising the president of the republic in the preparation of guidelines for government action, the Government Council, consisting of the ministers of state and the head of the General Advisory Office of the Republic, will meet when summoned by the president of the republic.

Single paragraph: The Government Council will be presided over at each of its meetings by the minister of state appointed for that purpose by the president of the republic.

Article 8: The General Advisory Office of the Republic is responsible for advising the president of the republic directly on matters of a legal nature, standardizing federal administrative jurisprudence, coordinating, supervising, and monitoring the activities of the legal department of the Federal Public Administration, and performing all other duties assigned to it by special legislation.

Article 9: The Armed Forces High Command, consisting of the military ministers, the minister of state-Armed Forces chief of staff, and the chiefs of staff of the separate services, has the duty of advising the president of the republic regarding decisions relative to military policy and the coordination of matters relevant to the Armed Forces.

Single paragraph: The Armed Forces High Command will meet when summoned by the president of the republic, and its secretary will be the minister of state-chief of the Military Household.

Article 10: The Armed Forces General Staff, retaining its current structure, will have the duty of advising the president of the republic regarding the matters referred to in Article 50 of Decree-Law No. 200 dated 25 February 1967 and subsequent special legislation.

Article 11: The Council on Economic Affairs, which is of an advisory nature, will meet when summoned by the president of the republic, who, for each meeting, will appoint the members, set the agenda, and appoint the secretary.

Single paragraph: Participation on the council will be considered an extremely important service.

Article 12: For the purpose of coordinating national strategic planning, conducting studies, and formulating, coordinating, and overseeing plans, programs, and projects declared by the president of the republic to be strategic in character, including matters related to information and geopolitical and economic macrozoning, and also of carrying out the permanent activities necessary for exercising the authority of the National Defense Council, coordinating the formulation and overseeing the implementation of the National Nuclear Energy Program and other policies as determined by the president of the republic, the Secretariat of Strategic Affairs has the following basic structure:

- Department of Strategic Planning;
- Department of Strategic Plans, Programs, and Projects;
- Center for Strategic Studies; and
- Commissions and Agencies.

Article 13: The purpose of the Institutional Communication Office is to oversee, supervise, and coordinate publicity for agencies and entities directly or indirectly attached to the Federal Public Administration and for companies under the control of the Union.

Chapter II: Ministries

Article 14: The ministries are the following:

- Justice;
- Navy;
- Army;
- Foreign Affairs;
- Finance;
- Transport;
- Agriculture, Supply, and Agrarian Reform;
- Education and Sports;
- Culture;
- Labor and Administration;
- Social Welfare;
- Aeronautics;
- Health;

- Industry, Commerce, and Tourism;
- Mines and Energy;
- Regional Integration;
- Communications;
- Science and Technology;
- Social Security; and
- Environment.

Single paragraph: The heads of the ministries, the Civilian Household of the Presidency, the General Secretariat of the Presidency, the Secretariat of Planning, Budget, and Coordination of the Presidency, the Military Household of the Presidency, and the Armed Forces General Staff are ministers of state.

Section I: Military Ministries

Article 15: The structure and matters constituting the jurisdiction of the military ministries are those specified in Decree-Law No. 200 of 1967 and subsequent special legislation.

Section II. Civilian Ministries

Article 16: The matters constituting the jurisdiction of each civilian ministry are the following:

I. Ministry of Justice:

- a) Legal order, nationality, citizenship, political rights, and constitutional guarantees;
- b) public safety, the Federal Police, the Highway and Railroad Police, and the Federal District Police;
- c) penitentiary administration;
- d) foreigners;
- e) the documentation, publication, and filing of official acts;
- f) defense of the economic order and of consumers' rights;
- g) Indians;
- h) the General Ombudsman's Office; and
- i) the Commercial Registry.

II. Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

- a) International policy;
- b) diplomatic relations and consular services;
- c) commercial, economic, technical, and cultural negotiations with foreign countries and entities;
- d) international cooperation programs; and
- e) support for Brazilian delegations, groups, and representations at international and multilateral agencies and organizations.

III. Ministry of Finance:

- a) Money, credit, financial institutions, capitalization, private insurance, and people's savings;
- b) tax administration;
- c) budget and financial administration and public auditing and accounting;
- d) administration of the domestic and foreign public debt;
- e) administration of government assets;
- f) economic and financial negotiations with foreign governments and entities;
- g) the monitoring and oversight of prices and rates for public services and administered prices and rates; and
- h) fiscal supervision and oversight of foreign trade.

IV. Ministry of Transport:

- a) Rail, road, and water transportation;
- b) merchant marine, ports, and navigable waterways; and
- c) participation in the coordination of air transportation services as provided by law.

V. Ministry of Agriculture, Supply, and Agrarian Reform:

- a) Agricultural policy, comprising production, marketing, supply, warehousing, and minimum price guarantees;
- b) agricultural and livestock production and promotion;
- c) agricultural and livestock marketing, sales, and supplies, including buffer and strategic stocks;
- d) agricultural information;
- e) animal and plant health;
- f) supervision of the inputs used in agricultural and stockraising activities and of services in that sector;
- g) the standardization and inspection of animal and plant products and byproducts;
- h) the protection, conservation, and management of soil and water intended for use in the agricultural and stockraising production process;
- i) technological research in agriculture and stockraising;
- j) agrarian reform;
- l) meteorology and climatology;
- m) rural development, cooperatives, and associations;
- n) rural energy and agricultural energy, including rural electrification; and
- o) technical assistance and rural extension services.

VI. Ministry of Education and Sports:

- a) National education policy;
- b) preschool education; education in general, including basic, secondary, higher, and supplementary instruction; technological education; and special education;
- c) education research;
- d) university extension;
- e) the teaching profession;
- f) coordination of programs for the complete care of children and adolescents; and
- g) coordination and supervision of the development of sports in our country.

VII. Ministry of Culture:

- a) The planning, coordination, and supervision of cultural activities;
- b) the drafting and execution of cultural policy; and
- c) protection of the Brazilian cultural heritage.

VIII. Ministry of Labor and Administration:

- a) Labor and its supervision;
- b) labor market and employment policy;
- c) wage policy;
- d) immigration policy;
- e) vocational training and advancement;
- f) labor relations;
- g) labor safety and health; and
- h) the planning, coordination, supervision, and monitoring of matters related to civilian personnel of the Federal Public Administration (direct and indirect personnel and those employed in quasi-governmental agencies or foundations) as well as matters related to general services, administrative modernization and organization, and the data processing systems and services of those entities.

IX. Ministry of Social Security:

- a) Social Security and
- b) supplemental benefits

X. Ministry of Health:

- a) National health policy;
- b) medical and paramedical activities;
- c) preventive action in the health area and sanitary vigilance at the borders, ports, and airports;
- d) supervision of drugs, medicines, and foods; and
- e) medical and health research.

XI. Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Tourism:

- a) The promotion of industry and commerce, with special attention being paid to the modernization of machinery, equipment, technologies, processes, and human resources;
- b) industrial property, trademarks, and patents;
- c) legal metrology;
- d) foreign trade;
- e) tourism; and
- f) support for very small, small, and medium-size businesses.

XII. Ministry of Mines and Energy:

- a) Geology and mineral and energy resources;
- b) the water balance and sources of water power;
- c) mining and metallurgy; and
- d) the petroleum industry and the electric industry, including nuclear power.

XIII. Ministry of Regional Integration:

- a) Regional integration programs and projects;
- b) urban development; relations with states and municipalities;
- d) irrigation;
- e) civil defense; and
- f) sanitation works.

XIV. Ministry of Communications:

- a) Telecommunications, including administration, licensing, monitoring, and supervision of the use of radio frequencies, and
- b) postal services.

XV. Ministry of Science and Technology:

- a) The planning, coordination, supervision, and monitoring of activities in science and technology; and
- b) the formulation and implementation of data processing and automation policy.

XVI. Ministry of Social Wefare:

- a) Social aid;
- b) housing and sanitation policies;
- c) human settlement, occupation of the territory, and internal migration; and
- d) human advancement.

XVII. Ministry of Environment:

- a) The planning, coordination, supervision, and monitoring of actions relative to the environment;
- b) the formulation and execution of national environmental policy;
- c) the preservation, conservation, and rational use of renewable natural resources; and
- d) the implementation of international agreements in the environmental area.

Subsection I: Organs Common to All Civilian Ministries

Article 17: Each civilian ministry and the Secretariat of Planning, Budget, and Coordination of the Presidency will include the following in its basic structure:

- Executive secretary.
- Staff.
- Secretariat of Internal Control.
- Legal Office, except in the Ministry of Finance.
- Secretariat of General Administration, except in the Ministry of Environment.

Single paragraph: The basic structure of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is set forth in Article 18.

Subsection II: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Article 18: The basic structure of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs includes the following components:

I. Organs for the direct and immediate assistance of the minister of state:

a) Staff; b) Protocol; and c) General Inspectorate of the Foreign Service.

II. Sectoral organs:

a) Legal Office and b) Secretariat of Internal Control.

III. Specific organs:

a) The General Secretariat of Foreign Affairs, consisting of:

1. General Under Secretariat of Political Affairs.

2. General Under Secretariat of Integration, Economy, and Foreign Trade Matters.

3. General Under Secretariat of Foreign Service.

4. General Under Secretariat of Political and Economic Planning.

b) Rio Branco Institute.

c) Permanent diplomatic missions.

d) Consular departments.

IV. Collegial organs:

a) Coordination Committee.

b) Promotion Committee.

Subsection III: Specific Organs

Article 19: The following organs are specific to the various civilian ministries:

I. In the Ministry of Justice:

- a) Council for the Defense of Human Rights;
- b) National Council on Criminal and Penitentiary Policy;
- c) National Traffic Council;
- d) Federal Drug Council;
- e) Administrative Council for Economic Defense;
- f) Higher Council for Defending Freedom of Creation and Expression;
- g) National Council on Women's Rights;
- h) National Public Safety Council;
- i) Office of the General Ombudsman of the Republic;
- j) Secretariat for Rights of Citizenship and Justice;
- k) Secretariat of Economic Defense;
- l) Secretariat of Federal Police;
- m) Traffic Secretariat;
- n) Secretariat of Legislative States [as published];
- o) National Archives; and
- p) National Printing Office.

II. In the Ministry of Finance:

- a) National Monetary Council;
- b) National Council on Finance Policy;
- c) Council on Resources of the National Financial System;
- d) National Private Insurance Council;
- e) Higher Chamber on Fiscal Resources;
- f) First, Second, and Third Taxpayers Councils;
- g) Public Prosecutor for National Finance;
- h) Federal Revenue Secretariat;
- i) National Treasury Secretariat;
- j) Secretariat of Economic Policy;
- k) General Audit Office of the Union;
- l) School of Finance Administration; and
- m) Financial Planning Board.

III. In the Ministry of Transport:

- a) Secretariat of Railroad Transport;
- b) Secretariat of Road Transport; and
- c) Secretariat of Water Transport.

IV. In the Ministry of Agriculture, Supply, and Agrarian Reform:

- a) National Council on Agricultural Policy;
- b) Special Committee on Resources;
- c) Secretariat of Agricultural Policy;
- d) Secretariat for the Defense of Agriculture and Stockraising; and
- e) Executive Committee of the Cacao Growing Plan.

V. In the Ministry of Education and Sports:

- a) Federal Education Council;
- b) National Sports Council;
- c) Board of Directors of the Assistance Fund for Professional Athletes;
- d) Secretariat of Basic Education;
- e) Secretariat of Middle and Technological Education;
- f) Secretariat of Higher Education;
- g) Secretariat of Sports;
- h) Secretariat of Special Educational Projects; and
- i) National Institute for Educational Studies and Research.

VI. In the Ministry of Culture:

- a) National Council on Cultural Policy;
- b) National Council for the Encouragement of Culture;
- c) Motion Picture Committee;
- d) Secretariat of Information, Studies, and Planning;
- e) Secretariat for the Support of Culture;
- f) Secretariat for Exchange and Special Projects; and
- g) Secretariat of Audiovisual Development.

VII: In the Ministry of Labor and Administration:

- a) National Labor Council;
- b) National Immigration Council;
- c) Trustee Council of the Severance Pay Fund;
- d) Deliberative Council of the Worker Assistance Fund;
- e) Management Council of the National Workers Register;
- f) Secretariat of Vocational Training and Advancement;
- g) Secretariat of Employment and Wage Policies;
- h) Secretariat of Labor Relations;
- i) Secretariat of Labor Safety and Health;
- j) Secretariat of Labor Supervision; and
- k) Secretariat of Federal Administration.

VIII. In the Ministry of Social Security:

- a) National Social Security Council,
- b) National Social Welfare Council;
- c) Social Welfare Resource Council;
- d) Management Council for Supplementary Welfare;
- e) Secretariat of Social Welfare;

- f) Secretariat of Supplementary Welfare; and
- g) Social Welfare General Inspectorate.

IX. In the Ministry of Health:

- a) National Health Council;
- b) Secretariat of Sanitary Vigilance; and
- c) Secretariat of Health Assistance.

X. In the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Tourism:

- a) National Council on Metrology, Standardization, and Industrial Quality;
- b) National Council on Export Processing Zones;
- c) Brazilian Nomenclature Committee;
- d) Secretariat of Industrial Policy;
- e) Secretariat of Trade Policy;
- f) Secretariat of Foreign Trade; and
- g) Secretariat of Tourism and Services.

XI. In the Ministry of Mines and Energy:

- a) Secretariat of Mines and Metallurgy; and
- b) Secretariat of Energy.

XII. In the Ministry of Regional Integration:

- a) Secretariat of Relations With States and Municipalities;
- b) Secretariat of Regional Development;
- c) Secretariat of Urban Development;
- d) Secretariat of Civil Defense;
- e) Secretariat of Irrigation; and
- f) Secretariat of Metropolitan Areas.

XIII. In the Ministry of Communications:

- a) National Communications Council;
- b) Secretariat of Supervision and Licensing;
- c) Secretariat for the Administration of Radio Frequencies; and
- d) Secretariat of Communications Services.

XIV. In the Ministry of Science and Technology:

- a) National Science and Technology Council;
- b) National Data Processing and Automation Council;
- c) Planning and Evaluation Secretariat;
- d) Secretariat for the Coordination of Implementing Organizations;
- e) Secretariat of Coordination and Programs;
- f) Secretariat of Technology;
- g) Secretariat of Data Processing and Automation Policy;
- h) National Institute for Space Research;
- i) National Institute for Amazon Region Research; and
- j) National Institute of Technology.

XV. In the Ministry of Social Welfare:

- a) National Social Service Council;
- b) Secretariat of Housing Policies;
- c) Secretariat of Sanitation Policies;
- d) Secretariat of Human Advancement; and
- e) National Coordinating Office for the Integration of Persons With Deficiencies.

XVI. In the Ministry of Environment:

- a) National Council on the Environment; and
- b) Committee of the National Environment Fund.

Single paragraph: the executive secretary of the Ministry of Environment will be the president of the Brazilian Institute for the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources.

Chapter III: Organizations and Positions Replaced, Established, or Transferred

Article 20: The Ministries of Economy, Finance, and Planning; Agriculture and Agrarian Reform; Social Action; Transport and Communications; and Education are hereby replaced respectively by the Ministries of Finance; Agriculture, Supply, and Agrarian Reform; Social Welfare; Transport; and Education and Sports.

Article 21: The Government Secretariats of the Presidency, Regional Development, Culture, Science and Technology, and Environment are hereby replaced respectively by the Civilian Household of the Presidency, the Ministry of Regional Integration, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Science and Technology, and the Ministry of Environment.

Article 22: The Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Tourism, the Ministry of Communications, and the Secretariat of Planning, Budget, and Coordination of the Presidency are hereby established.

Article 23: The positions of minister of state of culture; of industry, commerce, and tourism; of communications; of science and technology; of environment; of the Secretariat of Planning, Budget, and Coordination of the Presidency; of the Military Household of the Presidency; and of the Armed Forces General Staff are hereby established.

Article 24: The positions of executive secretary, chef de cabinet, legal adviser, secretary of general administration, and secretary of internal control are hereby established, with one of each such position to exist in each of the ministries referred to in Article 14, Paragraphs IX, XIV, XVI, XVII, XVIII, and XX, with due regard for the provisions of Article 17, Paragraph V, and in the Secretariat of Planning, Budget, and Coordination of the Presidency.

Article 25: The property and personnel of the organizations referred to in Articles 20 and 21 will be transferred to the ministries and organizations taking over their respective duties.

Single paragraph: Expenditures committed and executed through the date of publication of this provisional measure by the organizations replaced or transferred are to be deducted from the funds allocated to the organizations taking over the corresponding duties and assuming responsibility for the respective budget plans.

Article 26: The executive branch is authorized to reassign budgets allocated to the organizations, units, and entities of the Federal Public Administration in terms of budget reference units for each subproject or subactivity by transferring them to the organizations, units, and entities taking over the corresponding duties, provided that their respective functional-programmatic classifications, including titles, descriptors, goals and objectives, and the relevant classification by expense group as determined by Law No. 8,409 dated 28 February 1992 are left unchanged.

Single paragraph: The executive branch will submit to the National Congress a bill providing the necessary additional credits for adapting the planning and execution of the budget to the provisions of this provisional measure.

Article 27: For the purposes of this provisional measure, the executive branch is authorized to establish by replacement or to transfer within the Federal Public Administration, by means of a change in name or description but with no increase in expenditure, positions of a special nature or positions and duties of trust in the Higher Directorate and Advisory Groups (DAS) and the Compensated Service (FG).

Chapter IV: Final Provisions

Article 28: Entities constituting the indirect Federal Public Administration will be attached to the organizations of the Presidency and to the ministries in accordance with the rules set forth in Article 4, Paragraph 1 and Article 5, Paragraph 2 of Decree-Law No. 200 of 1967 and will be subject to supervision exercised by the ministers of state and the secretaries of the Presidency.

Article 29: The executive branch will regulate the organization, reorganization, and functioning of the ministries and organizations referred to in this provisional measure, and such regulation may include name changes.

Article 30: This provisional measure will take effect on the date of its publication.

Article 31: Conflicting provisions, especially Law No. 8,028 dated 12 April 1990 to the extent that it conflicts with this provisional measure, are repealed.

Brasilia, 16 October 1992; the 171st year of independence and the 104th year of the republic.

Law Signed To Discourage Sale of Human Organs

PY2011135492 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] Transplants of donated human organs have been officially authorized in Brazil. President Itamar Franco signed a law eliminating the requirement of consulting with the donor's next of kin if he is carrying a card authorizing the transplant.

A major change included in the law reflects the express objective of discouraging the sale of human organs by prohibiting donations between living people. Except for parents, children, brothers and sisters, or spouses, donations of human organs between living people can only be implemented by court authorization.

Chile

ROK Opposed to DPRK Opening Embassy in Santiago

PY1611185092 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 7 Nov 92 p 8

[Article by Patricia Escalona]

[Text] Seoul—The ROK has asked Chile not to allow the DPRK to open an embassy in Santiago until the DPRK communist government proves that it has no nuclear weapons. The Seoul government suspects that the DPRK has nuclear weapons hidden away, making it "a threat to the world."

The ROK request follows the resumption of Chilean-DPRK diplomatic ties, which were made official in October 1991 when Chilean Foreign Minister Silva Cimma and his DPRK colleague signed an agreement at the United Nations.

After stating that if the DPRK has a nuclear arsenal it is a threat, ROK Assistant Foreign Minister (Huh Seung) said the request to Chile anticipates the reunification of the two Koreas which "can only be achieved through peaceful, not violent means."

He added: "Nations and international organizations must pressure the DPRK to comply with current international regulations."

The demand issued to the DPRK to prove it has no nuclear arsenal is today upheld by Japan, the United States, and the EEC, among other governments and international organizations.

The resumption of diplomatic ties between Chile and the DPRK has spurred some resentment in the ROK. Some ROK officials admit that Chile has the right to conduct its foreign ties in a sovereign manner but consider that, out of courtesy, it should have informed its decision to resume diplomatic ties to a friendly government, which is the case with the ROK.

Following instructions he received in Santiago, Chilean Ambassador to Seoul Julio Lagarini has informed the ROK Government that although diplomatic ties have been restored, the DPRK will not open an embassy in Chile or vice versa.

It is known, however, that DPRK diplomats will soon pressure the Chilean Government to open a concurrent embassy. This, and the agreement that Silva Cimma signed in New York, may be considered a diplomatic triumph.

Ladeco Airlines To Start Regular Flight to Cuba

PY1911111092 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1539 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Summary] Santiago, 17 Nov (EFE)—Victoria Vasquez, executive vice president of Ladeco Chilean Airlines, has announced that the airline will start regular weekly flights to Havana, Cuba, next January. Iberia Airlines owns 35 percent of Ladeco. She said that this is part of an expansion program after the Santiago-San Jose, Costa Rica, route was inaugurated last September. Ladeco has also signed agreements with the airlines of El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama, Honduras, Jamaica, and the Dominican Republic for connections to Chile. Ladeco will also start two weekly flights to San Jose, and three weekly flights to Mexico City next January. Ladeco has also installed offices in Taipei, Singapore, Jakarta, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Seoul, and Bangkok as part of its expansion program.

Colombia

Government-AD/M-19 Relationship Reportedly Worsens

PA1811151792 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] The sweet and sour relationship between the government and the 19 April Movement Democratic Alliance [AD/M-19] became even more sour on 17 November. Minister of Public Health Gustavo de Roux offered his resignation to the party leadership. The AD/M-19 is about to leave the cabinet because it disagrees with the declaration of a state of internal disturbance and the measures taken by President Cesar Gaviria to restore public order. The party believes the guerrilla war has escalated and international mediation is needed now, more than ever, to reach at least some basis for an agreement with the armed rebels instead of a declaration of war.

[Begin recording] [AD/M-19 Senator Eduardo Chavez] We all agree that we cannot accept the government's measures. On the contrary, we must support measures that will reinforce peace and offer hope for reconciliation.

[AD/M-19 Senator Vera Grabe] These measures do not contribute to peace, which is their main objective. We believe that violence and war are not a way out for this country, and that the government must clear the way for a peace strategy. [end recording]

The AD/M-19 congressional leadership advised the president of its rejection of the government's antiterrorist methods and the position taken by the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNGSB].

[Begin recording, AD/M-19 Senator Hernando Gutierrez] We think the CNGSB is mistaken. We also think the government measures are wrong. [end recording]

Now, after a two-year relationship, the process that brought the 19 April guerrilla movement into civilian life and led the government to hail this relationship as an example for other movements to follow, apparently has disintegrated. On 18 November, the AD/M-19 National Directorate AD will meet with Antonio Navarro Wolff, its highest leader, to define its position on leaving the government.

President Attends Troop Recognition Ceremony

PA2011000792 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] President Cesar Gaviria officially saluted the military commanders in Santa Fe de Bogota. During the troop recognition ceremony, the president reiterated his hard position against the rebels and drug traffickers.

During the impressive recognition ceremony—attended by the former Air Force and Navy commanders as special guests—General Luis Eduardo Roca requested the creation of a National Day of Protest Against Terrorism, Guerrillas, and Drug Trafficking to generate solidarity among the troops. After the ceremony, the president of the Republic met for four hours with the new commanders of the Armed Forces, commanders of brigades and divisions, and the directors of the police and the Judicial Police and Investigations Directorate. The president reiterated his policy to seek peace and the new measures against the terrorist wave by the guerrillas in the entire country.

[Begin Gaviria recording] The Armed Forces feel that if they have the citizen's cooperation, they will be able to produce much better results. They are aware that the effectiveness of their actions and the effectiveness of the actions undertaken by the public force depend very much on the citizens' cooperation. [end recording]

The president told the new commanders that his words and speeches cannot be just words on paper and there must be visible results for the government and the country to see. He demanded more effectiveness in operations and a bigger effort in the field of military intelligence.

He strongly urged them to end the soft treatment of the subversives.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] It was said the president gave you all a boxing of the ears, is that true?

[Army Commander General Hernan Jose Guzman; identified by caption] No, there was no boxing of the ears. There was total support for the military institutions and its activities, a total support for the image the military institution must have. He listened very patiently to the brigade commanders, especially to the needs of the National Army, the Navy, and the Air Force.

I believe the president regards us highly, because he asked us: What else do you need to fulfill your mission?

[Reporter] What were the main needs of the Army?

[Guzman] The most important needs....[pauses] As you know, we have maneuverability and mobility problems with our weaponry and with the troops' firepower. [end recording]

The president of the Republic reiterated again that without the solidarity of the people it will be impossible to win the battle against violence.

President Cesar Gaviria also spoke about the proposal from the 19 April Movement Democratic Alliance for mediation to solve the problems with the guerrillas.

The president gave a definitive no to this proposal and flatly rejected the dialogue with the National Guerrilla Coordinating Board.

[Begin Gaviria recording] At this time, we would gain nothing by a mediation, because to do so would not solve our basic problem. The main issue is not to decide how to hold talks or what procedures to use, but rather to define the purpose and objectives of the dialogue.

We cannot sit down to talk just so government officials can be made to give explanations to the guerrillas, or to give the guerrillas notoriety, or for regional authorities to yield to the guerrillas' armed extortion, putting the state's resources at their disposal. The government will not allow the Colombians' hopes for peace to be exploited in this manner. [end recording]

Poll Shows 85 Percent Agree With Recent Measures

PA1911152992 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] The National Consulting Center [Centro Nacional de Consultoria] was asked to conduct a survey on what people really think about the latest government measures. The results are precise, clear, and yet odd. Let us see. Half of those surveyed do not know what the state of internal disturbance is but 85 percent of them believe it is a good measure and 60 percent feel the state is not ready to engage in a direct armed confrontation with the guerrillas. Also, 50 percent said the government can defeat the guerrillas militarily, and 44 percent said it cannot.

Of those people surveyed, 83 percent do not believe the guerrillas but 63 percent do not think the state of siege will work this time. To conclude, 52 percent disagree with the measures to curb freedom of the press. While 54 percent do not support continuing the talks between the government and the rebels, 43 percent do.

These results show a clear division exists and remove the specter of unanimity, something that is always dangerous for a true democracy. Manichaeus was the man who saw everything in black or white. How wrong he was! He ignored colors and all the nuances of life. We do not need Manichaeus here.

Dailies Sign Communique Supporting Government

PA2011142692 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 15 Nov 92 p 6A

[Excerpts] The directors of all the dailies, with the exception of EL COLOMBIANO, have expressed their support for the actions the government and the Armed Forces are carrying out against subversion and urged the authorities to persist "without hesitation or capitulation" to "reestablish public order, strengthen the state of law, and consolidate democracy."

The directors of the newspapers that are members of the Association of Colombian Dailies [Andiarios] have issued a statement condemning the criminal actions the guerrillas have been carrying out in recent days in the framework of a terrorist offensive. The communique states the association's solidarity with the victims of the violence. [passage omitted]

The following is a text of the Andiarios communique:

The board of directors of the Andiarios newspapers, whereas:

A. Colombia is enduring an emergency situation due to the criminal actions of terrorism and guerrillas who have sown death and destruction in various regions of the country;

B. The government and the Armed Forces recently have demonstrated an attitude of facing the subversive challenge firmly and decidedly;

Resolve:

1. To condemn the criminal actions of the guerrilla groups and to express the board's solidarity with the victims of subversive violence.

2. To back the government and Armed Forces decision to face the subversive challenge and to offer their full support in the inevitable task of reestablishing public order, strengthening the state of law, and consolidating democracy.

3. To urge these important authorities to persist in their determination to face the subversive aggression without hesitation or capitulation.

4. To reiterate their firm decision to contribute bravely and responsibly to find a solution to the nation's problems.

5. To invite other media to join efforts in this decisive battle for Colombia.

6. To convoke all the political, economic, and social forces to form a united front to defeat subversive violence and to open paths of peace and reconciliation in the country.

All the Colombian dailies sign this document.

The daily EL COLOMBIANO, of Medellin, abstained from signing this joint declaration. On 14 November it issued a communique that states the following:

EL COLOMBIANO respects the position of some directors of newspapers which are members of Andiarios, but it will abstain from signing the joint declaration for the following reasons:

1. EL COLOMBIANO, in line with its editorial position, does not fully support the government decision to declare a state of internal disturbance because it violates the right to inform and freedom of the press and because it closes the door to civil solutions.

2. EL COLOMBIANO will obey the authorities but it invokes its editorial independence to analyze critically decisions it may find objectionable from the point of view of the law, human rights, fundamental liberties, and the guarantees necessary to exercise journalism professionally in the media.

3. EL COLOMBIANO wants to make it clear that it rejects violence, regardless of from where it comes, and appeals to the people and to the media to act responsibly for social peace and understanding.

FARC, ELN Protect Poppies, Coca in 10 Areas

PA2011043492 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 16 Nov 92 p 12a

[Report by Miller Rubio Orjuela]

[Text] The Army of National Liberation (ELN) and Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) criminals control poppy and coca plantations in at least 10 departments in Colombia.

This is stated by a high-level government report prepared by government security organizations.

The study, which EL TIEMPO learned about, states that the Guerrilla Coordinating Board (CG) criminals control very important poppy fields in Huila, Meta, Tolima, Boyaca, Cundinamarca, Cauca, Antioquia, Caqueta, Valle, and Bolivar Departments.

According to the report, the guerrillas exercise control over these fields in three ways: control over their own fields, protection to drug traffickers' fields, and the collection of protection money [vacunas] from growers.

In 26 military operations, the authorities have been able to verify that the subversive groups not only protect alkaloid plantations, but also process it.

In the case of the FARC, the study points out that during 1992 on several occasions they confronted the Armed Forces to protect extensive poppy fields.

The report states that in 1992 alone there were 12 clashes between the authorities and guerrillas protecting poppy and coca plantations.

One of the cases repeatedly mentioned by the authorities was the clash in Algeciras, Huila Department, where subversives attacked a helicopter that was fumigating a poppy field.

In Meta Department, according to the official report, there were three armed clashes. The first one took place in Restrepo, when Army units clashed with members of the FARC's 31st Front, which was growing 10 hectares of poppies.

Similar incidents have taken place in La Uribe and Vistahermosa Municipalities, where authorities destroyed guerrilla camps that were found to have several kilos of cocaine and processing supplies.

Similar situations have taken place in Ortega and Rovira, Tolima Department; Pisba and Pajarito, Boyaca Department; Pasca, Cundinamarca Department; Tello and Gigante, Huila Department; and Mutala, Antioquia Department.

The document, which is undergoing a high-level government evaluation, also says that intelligence activities have established that the FARC controls poppy plantations and drug processing laboratories in Caloto, Cauca Department; El Calvario, Guamal, Villavicencio, and Puerto Lleras, Meta Department; El Paval, Caqueta Department; Tulua, Valle Department; and Rioblanco and Rovira, Tolima Department.

The information also indicates that FARC 2d, 6th, 7th, 9th, 21st, 26th, 27th, 28th, 31st, and 39th Fronts are basically dedicated to protect drug plantations.

The ELN's case is similar to FARC's, the report says. The ELN controls plantations and drug processing laboratories in Santander de Quilichao, Cauca Department, Valdivia, Antioquia Department; and San Pablo, Bolivar Department.

In these three municipalities the police and Army have destroyed over 25 hectares of coca plantations and laboratories, in addition, they have confiscated arms and drug processing chemicals.

The document states that between 1986 and 1991, there were at least 21 clashes in Colombia between guerrillas protecting important drug plantations and members of the Armed Forces.

In 1986, six of these clashes took place mostly in Vichada, Caqueta, Guaviare, and Meta Departments.

Two years later, there were the same number of clashes, but this time they took place in Antioquia, Cauca, Vaupes, and Caqueta Departments.

The document mentions five important operations against the narco-guerrillas between 1989 and 1991.

* Gomez, Betancur Reportedly Discuss Candidates

* Leaders Meet in Paris

93SM0044A Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 14 Oct 92 p 5A

[EL ESPECTADOR "Political Periscope" column by Carlos Murcia: "Conservative Revolt Over the Agreement Between Gomez and Belisario"]

[Text] The tentative agreement reached in Paris by former President Belisario Betancur and Ambassador Alvaro Gomez Hurtado to support the launching of a national candidate capable of rallying the support of major political forces regardless of party affiliation has caused an uproar in the country and a revolt in several conservative groups. However, it has also roused speculation about precisely who might head any such movement.

Caught off guard by the news coming out of France, members of the Conservative bench in Parliament avoided the issue at a political meeting held behind closed doors yesterday afternoon. However, they did set 19 November as the new date for the National Convention previously scheduled for 28 October. The postponement stems from logistical problems.

Several senators and representatives reacted with surprise, noting that Betancur had expressed his intention of remaining outside of politics, but then suddenly csme down off his pedestal.

Paris Stork

Precandidate Juan Diego Jaramillo ironically observed that: "They do not realize that the Conservative Party has moved beyond its old framework and that the Colombian people refuse to swallow such things, realizing perfectly well that neither babies nor candidates are brought by the stork from Paris."

He added that conservatism has established certain rules of play for the selection of the single candidate and that those rules imply participation in primary elections in all departments.

"Whoever wants to be the Conservative candidate has to wake up and smell the coffee and work the Conservative rank and file starting now." He added that "one cannot simply leap from an embassy to a candidacy when the country is looking for leadership not connected with the disaster of the current government."

Reservations

Former Minister Rodrigo Marin Bernal received the news from Paris with certain reservations, saying that while he agreed with the position of choosing a nationalistic candidate, he opposed the procedure of simply picking one because there are organs of the people and statutory procedures for doing so. Marin Bernal will make a more complete announcement when he has official knowledge of the details of the agreement reached by Gomez and Betancur.

Options

On the list of persons reportedly fitting the profile of the candidate sought by Gomez and Betancur are: Minister of Foreign Relations Noemi Sanin, now on her way to Tokyo; Jaime Garcia Parra, ambassador to the United States and about to retire from the post; constituent Carlos Lleras de la Fuente, who has caught the presidential fever; Augusto Ramirez Ocampo, who now occupies a top-ranking international post; and Rodrigo Marin Bernal, who has been campaigning for several weeks. No data are available from other municipalities.

As EL ESPECTADOR reported yesterday, the virtual agreement by Gomez and Betancur states that while the candidate does not have to be either a Liberal or a Conservative, he must have the essential qualifications, guaranteed national backing, and a spotless record that will stand up to any inspection.

Statement

Betancur and Gomez are drafting a statement calling upon Colombians to commit themselves to a relentless fight against the corruption now prevailing in the country. The soon-to-be-released document will mark the beginning of the movement to provide Colombia with a new alternative to government. The two will meet again on 25 October. They lunched at Maxim's in Paris on Monday, after meeting with UNESCO Ambassador Gloria Pachon. Former President Misael Pastrana was also expected to arrive in the City of Light, although he is reportedly not a party to the agreement.

* Further Reaction Noted

93SM0044B Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 14 Oct 92 p 6A

[Text] It was to be expected. Belisario Betancur and Alvaro Gomez' proposal to launch a presidential candidate for the 1994 elections who would transcend the parties, possibly a Liberal, has stirred up a hornet's nest in the country.

Nor was the effect long in coming. For some, the formula is a misstep in the process of unifying the Conservatives, a process that has been going on for several weeks in an attempt to establish clear rules of play emerging from the rank and file rather than the leaders.

For others, less fatalistic, the proposal will make it possible to overcome obstacles in conservatism and could mean the group's redemption.

They go even further, maintaining that presenting the country with a different alternative would mean a national candidacy, similar to what happened with Betancur when he won the presidency in 1982.

Father Javier Sanin, director of the program of Political Studies and International Relations at Javeriana University and a seasoned observer of the national scene, expressed his pleasure over Gomez and Betancur's proposal.

"I think it is stupendous. They rode the wave of public opinion in the country. This will enable an individual to win the presidency, not via the machinery, but because of his knowledge of the problems of violence, the economic situation, and corruption. They are trying to offer a winning formula."

One of the questions being asked in capital corridors yesterday was whether Misael Pastrana would be left out of the agreement between Gomez Hurtado and Betancur. EL TIEMPO has learned that the leader of the Social Conservatives was in Paris yesterday, but it is not known whether he met with the Colombian ambassador.

Rumors also circulated in Congress that the candidacy proposed in Paris could go to Carlos Lleras de la Fuente, former member of the Movement of National Salvation (MSN), even though he is a Liberal.

"I have not been in touch with Dr Gomez and do not have the slightest idea who it might be, but I think the meeting they held is very positive. I support it and think it could be a good formula," Lleras de la Fuente said.

Rodrigo Marin Bernal, MSN senator and presidential precandidate, strongly supported Gomez and Betancur's proposal. "I am in total agreement, not only with their proposal, but also on the qualities which the person they think should lead this great suprapartisan movement must have, a movement aimed at forging a true alternative to government." However, he thought a conservative candidate should be chosen.

Another presidential candidate, Juan Diego Jaramillo, practically ignored the Paris meeting. He said that "they (Gomez and Betancur) do not realize that the Conservative Party has moved beyond its old leaderships and that today, neither babies nor candidates come from Paris."

He said that rules of play have been established for the selection of the single candidate implying participation in primary elections in all departments of the country.

Taking a far more moderate tone, although agreeing with Jaramillo that new rules have been established, Rodrigo Llorente expressed his satisfaction with the Paris meeting.

Roberto Gerlein said emphatically that "it makes no sense for two Conservative leaders to meet to propose a Liberal candidate. It is Liberals, not Conservatives, who must choose the Liberal candidate."

Senator Andres Pastrana preferred to refrain from expressing any opinion. "I do not think I have enough information. I do not really know what they talked about at the Paris meeting. I have the impression it was a social meeting. After all, Alvaro Gomez is the ambassador and it would not have been normal for him to give a dinner for a former president."

* Conservative Unity Threatened

93SM0044C Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 15 Oct 92 p 5A

[Article by Carlos Murcia: "Alvarist Torpedo Launched at the Union"]

[Text] Several congressmen have accused the Alvarist sector of trying to torpedo the National Convention and the process of conservative unity and claim that the story published by EL ESPECTADOR and EL TIEMPO simultaneously and coincidentally is creating confusion among those participating enthusiastically in the organization of the party's highest assembly.

They said that Alvaro Gomez Hurtado and Belisario Betancur's Paris meeting would not have the scope given it in the Liberal press.

Some doubted that former President Betancur made any such agreement with Gomez to launch a presidential candidate. They thought the former president had probably only expressed his opinion about the need for a national candidacy for 1994.

Political sources have revealed that a few days ago, Betancur said he is a "piece of furniture" and has no reason to participate in politics. He claimed to support the process being promoted by the independents in an effort to further the union, thus removing himself from any personal differences involving Gomez and Pastrana.

Postponement

Senator Alvaro Pava Camelo said the Conservative National Convention had been postponed until 19 November, not as the result of the news from Paris, but for logistical reasons and because it was necessary to provide better planning for the event. It was decided that the convention would be held at the International Exposition Fair. Pava emphasized:

"The time when party candidates were picked at a Paris restaurant or simply singled out is long gone, a thing of the past. Today's candidate will not be picked in Paris or at a convention, but rather, through an internal consultation in departmental primaries on dates separate from the Liberal election, as stipulated by the statutory reform. The new board elected at the convention will bear responsibility for regulating this consultation. It has been decided that the board will have from one to nine members. There has been support in the Chamber of

Deputies for a triumvirate made up of Raimundo Emiliani Roman, Bertha de Ospina, and Rodrigo Lloreda, but the Senate favors a nine-member Board."

Senator Enrique Gomez Hurtado said yesterday that he has not talked with his brother Alvaro about the alleged draft agreement and can offer no comment. He came out against any popular consultation that could be handled by the patronage system of the election barons in each department.

For his part, former Minister Augusto Ramirez Ocampo was pleased with rumors concerning the launching of a national candidate and said he thinks he meets the requirements for the profile of a similar aspiration.

Budding Candidacy

When questioned by reporter Juan Carlos Martinez about his possible presidential candidacy in a national movement, the minister of foreign relations answered:

"I am a public official. I cannot participate in politics and the only thing I am promoting is the best Foreign Ministry I can. I am working hard and with great enthusiasm and great love for Colombia. Moreover, such a thing would amount to participating in political affairs, which would mean sanctions."

* Betancur Denies Reports

93SM0044D Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 16 Oct 92 p 5A

[EL ESPECTADOR "Political Periscope" column by Carlos Murcia: "Betancur Says He Will Not Launch Candidate"]

[Text] It was a mocking wit located right in the embassy in Paris that was responsible for the story published by EL ESPECTADOR and EL TIEMPO concerning the meeting between Alvaro Gomez Hurtado and Belisario Betancur and their alleged chat about national political issues. This explains why the stories in the two liberal dailies were so similar. They even mentioned the possibility of a document aimed at formulating a call to fight immorality and corruption that would be but the beginning of a national candidacy.

Nevertheless, former President Belisario Betancur stated categorically in Madrid yesterday that he had attended two social functions in the French capital where he had met Ambassador Alvaro Gomez. At no time did they speak about Colombian politics, much less of candidacies, however.

The first such meeting was at a luncheon given by UNESCO Ambassador Gloria Pachon attended by several ambassadors and the general director of UNESCO. However, the two men had no opportunity to discuss substantive issues. The second meeting came later that night, when Gomez approached [Betancur] to say hello to him and congratulate him on his speech.

"Dr Gomez and I do discuss the country's problems from time to time on a cordial basis. We have been both close together and far apart during our intense public lives, his being far more intense than mine. However, this has not prevented us from having an excellent personal relationship. I admire him as a thinker and intellectual. Every time we have the chance to engage in a dialogue, we do so, but there was no such opportunity this time. We never talked about Colombian politics.

"When the story came out in the press, Dr Gomez called me to Madrid to tell me about it. I cannot correct it because we did not analyze the issue," he emphasized.

He also said he could not understand how so much could be invented by the person at the embassy who put out a veritable "novel" on the agreement. In statements over the radio, however, Betancur said he thought it was a good idea for new alternatives to emerge in order to seek the unity of traditional parties. He said he had told his son Diego as much.

Alvarist Story

The Alvarist camp tells yet a different version and a number of spokesmen in the sector, including Juan Daniel Jaramillo, reported a series of meetings between Gomez Hurtado and Belisario Betancur as actual fact.

The daily EL NUEVO SIGLO published an editorial by Enrique Gomez stating that "it is necessary to talk."

"The national crisis is of such enormous and devastating proportions that any dialogue between prominent persons in our country generates immense expectations," he said. "Skepticism in the minds of Colombians takes on a certain degree of illusion when they feel that some light may be shed and result in some clarity. It is perhaps for that reason that the recent social and formal meetings between former President Belisario Betancur and Ambassador Alvaro Gomez in Paris roused interest in the media, political circles, and among the people over these informal meetings. This is the only interpretation that can be given to the fact that a former president and an ambassador would have lunch together, meet, and, quite naturally, discuss certain issues. Politics had to have been among those issues, particularly given the current disturbing situation in Colombia, now overwhelmed by a total collapse of law and order, the threat of labor protests that could lead to an unjustified situation of illegality, and a steady rise in immorality and corruption."

The same newspaper announced that "the Movement of National Salvation will not officially attend the convention which a number of conservative groups are calling," maintaining that the convention is premature.

Marin on Tour

Senator Rodrigo Marin Bernal spoke out on the issue yesterday as he began a tour of the Valley and Huila, saying that in general, he agrees on the need for a candidate who transcends the parties and has the ability to rally a following. He said the EL NUEVO SIGLO editorial seems to indicate that there is more to the Paris meetings than meets the eye, while emphasizing that the choice of the candidate should take advantage of the double ballot. He announced that he will keep going with his own presidential candidacy until the end. He was in Cali last night and will continue on to Neiva today to receive the support of the sector headed by Tito Garcia. He will then visit Santa Maria, Garzon, Pitalito, and San Agustin.

Ecuador

Statements on Nicaraguan Arms Transaction Differ

PA1511123892 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Quito—On 13 November, Ecuador confirmed it had bought weapons from Nicaragua. The reports on the sales operation have been contradictory. The transaction was carried out by the Ecuadoran and Nicaraguan governments with the participation of their respective Armed Forces.

Ecuadoran Defense Minister General Jose Gallardo said the amount of the purchase had been approximately $2.5 million, while his Nicaraguan counterpart, Gen. Humberto Ortega, said on 12 November, that the sale had been for a figure between $3 and $4 million. During an interview, Gallardo reported the weapons were already in Ecuador, whereas Ortega asserted the sale was still at the negotiation phase. The two officials, however, did not give details on the type of weapons included in the transaction. Ortega said the sale did not include helicopters, such as the ones sold to Peru.

Gallardo only made reference to how the weapons would be used. He said: We want to be absolutely clear. We have bought weapons from Nicaragua to be assigned exclusively to the struggle against drug trafficking. The weapons cost less than the mentioned $2.5 million. The Ecuadoran minister added: The weapons are already in Ecuador. We have taken advantage of weapons sold at very low prices. We bought them for a third or a fourth off the market price. The weapons have come with all the necessary spare parts and fixtures.

Ministers Approve Joint Action With Colombia

PA1811181492 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 Nov 17 Nov 92

[Text] Military chiefs in Ecuador and Colombia approved a joint action accord on 17 November to face problems stemming from the action of armed groups and drug traffickers on the border between the two countries.

Ecuadoran Defense Minister General Jose Gallardo and Colombian Defense Minister Rafael Pardo Rueda met privately in a hotel 132 km south of the border, according to an official report.

A communique was issued after the meeting, noting that both ministers are coordinating actions as part of the agreement on cooperation, support of border area residents, and controlling drug trafficking.

The Colombian Government launched an offensive against leftist guerrillas one week ago. Afterward the Ecuadoran Army declared a state of maximum alert to prevent fleeing rebels from escaping into Ecuador. Some 2,000 uniformed troops are combing the tropical northwestern jungle region by land, air, and sea. It was reported at a meeting with reporters that Colombian guerrillas have not been detected in the area since 15 November.

Open Skies Policy Established With Colombia

PA1311193192 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Ecuador and Colombia have decided to establish an open skies policy immediately, which could increase Ecuador's potential in tourism and commerce.

Patricio Hehues, president of the Pichincha Federation of Small-Scale Industrialists, said the measure is positive. The industrialists favor integration at all levels with the area countries. One month ago, Ecuador agreed to create a free trade zone with Colombia.

Paraguay

Court Orders Arrest of Gen. Garcete, Others

PY1811164392 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 1505 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] We have a last-minute report from the judicial branch. The judge [hearing the case on cattle rustling and car trafficking in the Chaco region] ordered the arrest of General Ramon Humberto Garcete and General Lorenzo Carrillo Mello and put a hold on their assets up to the amount of 100 million guaranies. The court also ordered the arrest of Lieutenant Lino Riquelme and Juan de Dios Martinez, who is charged with car theft.

The court also ordered the release of General Emilio Osvaldo Balbuena.

Colorado Head on 'Adulteration' of Electoral Lists

PY1811211892 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 18 Nov 92 p 5

[Excerpts] Blas N. Riquelme, president of the Colorado Party Executive Board, this morning pressed charges of irregularities in the electoral lists to Judge Angel Barchini of the 9th Criminal Court. He called for a pre-trial inquest and the arrest of those found guilty. Riquelme, with the backing of lawyer Oscar Paciello, submitted evidence of the adulteration of the lists of voters from Curuguaty.

The report states: "Attached is a list of the changes made to the pre-electoral list by Juan Pio Ramirez, representative of the Argana-93 movement in Curuguaty. These changes are endorsed by Diogenes Martinez, national representative of the movement who, with the pretext of making some corrections to the list, changed some data to the detriment of other electoral movements." [passage omitted]

Great uncertainty prevails among the different Colorado Party factions concerning the internal elections. The internal sectors, instead of agreeing to look for solutions to the current problems, are becoming radicalized. The crisis is aggravated by mutual accusations of manipulating the electoral lists. The attempt to find a negotiated solution through dialogue has not yielded the expected result and the confronted movements must now await the court ruling.

The Supreme Court now has the records and can rule on the much-ballyhooed case of almost 200,000 people who are registered with a "0" as their identification cards number and who have been excluded by the electoral court of Asuncion. This exclusion has been appealed by the Colorado Party Executive Board. The electoral court has already passed all data to the Supreme Court. The motion to declare unconstitutional the request for amparo and the ratification of the electoral court decision on the exclusion of those registered without their identification card numbers are still pending.

Military Promotions Depend on Colorado Primary

PY2011165492 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 20 Nov 92 p 10

[Text] Military sources reported yesterday that the Armed Forces Promotion Board's decisions will heavily depend on the political ups and downs of the Colorado Party [National Republican Association, ANR]. They asserted that the commander in chief and the Armed Forces High Command are uncertain about the victory of the government's candidate. Therefore, they have decided not to disclose the list of promoted and retired officers until after the ANR primary.

The same sources stated that decisions on promotions and retirements have been made with sufficient anticipation to be able to negotiate at the last moment the permanence or the promotion of those officers who exert influence in political power structures.

The same sources said that, at times, these negotiations may cause situations that are neither easily handled nor convenient for the military lines supporting the [Juan Carlos] Wasmosy-[Angel Roberto] Seifart ticket because a bad decision may mean losing votes on the eve of the party primary.

Greenpeace Notes Nuclear Waste Shipment

PY2011004092

[Editorial Report] Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish on 19 November carries a 400 word unattributed article in which Greenpeace representative Ruben Nicotera reports that international exporters have always wanted to send nuclear waste to Paraguay.

The article cites the case of brothers Cristian and Dieter Odemann, "exporters" of toxic waste, who in 1987 contacted the Paraguayan Government through late Finance Minister Cesar Barrientos seeking to install industries in the country. As soon as Barrientos learned the true objective of the operation he categorically refused it. They unsuccessfully tried with other people on other occasions.

The article says that the Odemanns later reportedly contacted with officials of the new government, including former Industry Minister Antonio Zuccolillo and former National Cement Industry Director William Wilka. Nobody knows what happened afterward. Some sources said that the business failed, others that a large quantity of nuclear waste finally entered the country. It is even estimated that the "business" yielded $14 million. The article states that there are "hundreds of 200 kg drums somewhere in the Chaco."

The Greenpeace organization "has documents that prove that in 1990 a major shipment of toxic waste was sent to Paraguay from the port of Bremen." It is believed that this shipment is buried in various zones of the Chaco, including Fortin Ochoa.

Argentina 'To Resolve' Pilcomayo River Issue

PY1811192792 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 18 Nov 92 p 18

[Text] Foreign Minister Alexis Frutos Vaesken has stated that the Paraguayan Foreign Ministry received yesterday an Argentine Government note in which it formally pledges to resolve the diversion of the Pilcomayo River which, for the most part, now flows into Argentina.

Frutos Vaesken explained that one possible solution currently under discussion is to partially block the channel on the Argentine side so that the river will run to the Paraguayan side and thus fairly and rationally divide the water.

He added that the note of commitment meets with the approval of the Paraguayan Government and that the practical steps to resolve this problem will be discussed at a tripartite meeting among Paraguayan, Argentine, and Bolivian representatives.

Frutos Vaesken further stated that Argentina and Paraguay will finance a temporary solution. From there, further negotiations will be geared to finding a permanent solution.

He explained that the Pilcomayo River might disappear within the next 10 years because the sediment that is carried downstream from Bolivia is silting up the river bed at the rate of seven to 10 km every year.

He added that the situation is becoming critical. Reliable reports state that there are only 86 km of river left. This means that before 2003 the natural border between Paraguay and Argentina could disappear.

RPC Television Network Defends 'Balanced Stance'

PY1811144092 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 17 Nov 92 p 16

[Editorial: "Democracy, As in the Good Old Days"]

[Text] All of a sudden, a swarm of inspectors from the Economy and Finance Ministry raided some companies belonging to RPC [Private Communications Network] in a spectacular operation that gave every appearance of being a crude reprisal for the balanced stance maintained by RPC vis-a-vis the Colorado Party presidential primaries.

The fiscal inspection distinctly evokes memories of similar extortionist methods frequently used in times we thought were totally overcome by this transition to democracy, which saw the light of day on 2 February 1989. During those times, the presence of inspectors was the almost inevitable consequence for independent points of view adopted by companies or businessmen regarding politics, by way of punishment.

In this case in point, the inspection was an obvious outrage for the following reasons: It was most uncalled for, the number of inspectors was excessive, the selection of the target company was most revealing, and the fact that the inspection was carried out on a company regulated by the provisions of the national positive law.

Although nobody mentioned it explicitly, all evidence points to the fact that the inspection was a sort of response to the RPC's refusal to take sides in the race for the nomination within the ruling party. From the onset of the electoral campaign, television station Channel 13, the newspaper NOTICIAS, and Radio Cardinal chose to remain staunchly objective and to refrain from taking sides in the race for the nomination and leadership.

For the RPC, taking sides in an electoral battle would have meant choosing the worst option because it would have been tantamount to betraying the most sacred principles governing a most noble task. One need only closely watch the professionalism evinced by RPC media to note, in a crystal-clear way, how adamantly we were determined to see fair play and treat all political parties or movements fairly.

All RPC journalists have been unswervingly objective and fair without exception. There is no better judge of this conduct than public opinion, which has stood by us through thick and thin throughout this complex and hurdle-strewn process. Public opinion is the only one entitled to judge, without prejudice or deceit, our journalistic actions. We thus appeal to it so that truth may shine and dissipate the black clouds of intemperance, irrationality, and intrigue.

The tax inspection is but a minor incident, an anecdote. What really matters is that once overflowing waters resume their course and the storm unleashed by sectarian views dies pown, citizens will distinctly remember that RPC managed to hold fast to its guiding journalistic principles, withstanding all sorts of pressure and regardless of the cost. And that it did so on account of the respect it owes its followers, the same ones who strived to have RPC occupy the privileged place it currently has and who expect it to live up to the dignity and honesty it stamped on our national journalism.

Peru

OAS Secretary General Arrives for CCD Elections

PA1911200392 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] At 0000 on 19 November, OAS Secretary General Joao Clemente Baena Soares arrived in Lima, accompanied by nine observers from different countries. Oscar de la Puente Raygada, president of the Council of Ministers, and OAS representative Mario Gonzalez received Baena Soares at the airport. Here is a report by Cesar Lengua and Mario Bucam.

[Lengua] OAS Secretary General Joao Clemente Baena Soares arrived in the capital at 0000 on 18 November, accompanied by nine personalities from different countries who will observe the Democratic Constituent Congress elections on 22 November.

Shortly before the arrival of the Brazilian diplomat, Oscar de la Puente Raygada, president of the Council of Ministers; the OAS representative; and Mario Gonzalez, head of the observers delegation, arrived at Jorge Chavez International Airport to greet Baena Soares.

Security measures were increased at the airport and journalists were not allowed in, although a spokesmen from the Jorge Chavez Airport Protocol Office indicated that the OAS secretary general would hold a news conference. But after his arrival, Baena Soares remained in Room Three at the airport. Later, amid extreme police measures, he left for a hotel in the capital.

It was learned that Uruguayan Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell, head of the OAS Commission on Peru, has announced that he will arrive in the country on 21 November.

The visitors will join more than 200 OAS observers who have been in Peru since last week. They are fulfilling their observation duties in different parts of the country.

De Bari Hermoza Guarantees Security for Election

PA1911201292 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] General Nicolas de Bari Hermoza, chief of the Armed Forces Joint Command, said that public security is guaranteed and that people should not be afraid to vote on 22 November.

[Begin recording] [De Bari Hermoza] The Armed Forces are going to support all the instructions issued by the National Election Board [JNE]. As the law establishes, we are guarantors of clean and honest elections.

[Unidentified reporter] [Words indistinct] the participation of the Armed Forces in the political campaign as it is being charged by some media?

[De Bari Hermoza] I do not think this is the time for me to criticize this. At some moment, I will have to explain this. I repeat, this is more a time of seeking harmony not division. The JNE's timetable is being kept. All the electoral material is already in the provinces, as was coordinated with the Armed Forces. We are deployed throughout the country to provide support, guarantees, security, and freedom to all voters so they will elect their constituent congress members.

[Reporter] Shining Path has called for a compulsory strike. What measures have been taken?

[De Bari Hermoza] We are adopting the best measures, in addition to the ones you already know about, to guarantee the electoral process. Of course, you know who is against democracy and against Peru: Shining Path. Its activities are simply criminal. We are trying to prevent them to the best of our abilities. From now to 21 November, we will intensify security measures. [end recording]

Lima Prefect's Office Prepares for Elections

PA1511154092 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] Augusto Vega Rioja, deputy prefect of Lima, has said that the authorities are coordinating the security measures with the police that are necessary for the forthcoming elections for the Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD].

[Begin recording] [Vega Rioja] The office of the Prefect of Lima is coordinating with the 2nd Military Region and the 7th National Police Region to provide all the security and protection necessary to guarantee a normal process on 22 November when the citizens will be able to comply with their civic duty and vote for their candidates. We are working to this effect, and the people may rest assured everything will be calm.

[Unidentified reporter] [words indistinct]

[Vega Rioja] Yes, the National Police and the soldiers will be providing all the security necessary in Lima and the rest of the country.

[Reporter] Will there be any restrictions or prohibitions prior and after the elections?

[Vega Rioja] There will be the usual and normal measures that are implemented every time there are elections. For example, there will be a ban on meetings and the sale of alcoholic beverages two days prior to the elections and 24 hours after the elections. [end recording]

Premier: No Cabinet Changes Before CCD Installed

PA1311043292 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] According to Prime Minister Oscar de la Puente, there will be no cabinet changes, at least until the Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD] is installed.

[Begin recording] [De la Puente] Justice Minister Fernando Vega Santa Gadea is working 22 hours a day solving very important problems. As far as the president of the Council of Ministers and the justice minister are concerned—not even as regards the personal ties between the justice minister and the president—there is no note that can constitute the slightest discrepancy. There is a firm commitment to work. We are continuously working on a series of programs. You can read EL PERUANO every day and see the council of ministers' productivity. If a magazine has made comments, it should prove the existence of the letter [word indistinct].

[Unidentified reporter] [Words indistinct] Mario Gonzalez has said the National Election Board [JNE] is allegedly violating the electoral law because pro-government candidates are still in government posts [words indistinct].

[De la Puente] I have not had access to that specific information. I have been told that the OAS observer has made comments to that effect to the JNE. The best thing to do would be to identify the government officials who should have been separated. There are two categories of government officials. Ministers, top government officials, the comptroller general, and all those who were in charge of government institutions should have resigned 45 days prior to the registration deadline. There were no problems with that. Those government officials who decided to run for election on the various lists should have requested a temporary leave without pay 30 days before the registration deadline. If the OAS observers have found government officials running for office whose request for leave without pay has not been published in EL PERUANO, they are free to continue to do so. I can tell you, however, that as president of the Council of Ministers, I have had a private conversation with the economy and health ministers. The three of us met behind closed doors and any disagreement between them has not only been ironed out, but the discussion was conducted in a very friendly and fraternal manner.

[Reporter] Will the president make cabinet changes after the CCD elections?

[De la Puente] It depends entirely on the president of the Republic. We traditionally place our posts at his disposal during national holidays and at the end of the year. [end recording]

MRTA Attacks Election Board Headquarters

PA2011133492 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1258 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] The National Election Board [JNE] headquarters on Nazca Street in the Jesus Maria district was attacked a few minutes ago. Two grenades and leaflets were thrown from an automobile. From the leaflets, it has been established that the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement [MRTA] was responsible for this attack. We repeat: The JNE headquarters was attacked a few minutes ago. Fortunately, there was no major damage.

Fujimori Comments On Surrender of Terrorists

PA1911210192 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Statements by President Alberto Fujimori at the Mariscal Caceres Military Base in Tarapoto on 19 November—recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...in this ceremony of surrender and repentance of 58 MRTA [Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement] and nine Shining Path terrorists. Three of these 67 terrorists are women. We have received their weapons instead of delivering weapons, because what we did first has yielded results for the sake of the country's pacification.

We now turn these weapons against terrorism on all fronts. This is a war of Peru against its enemies. There are some who—either deceived or forced—fought on the side of terror. Our pacification strategy consists of bringing them over to our side. These Peruvians who took the wrong path are already working for Peru. Welcome!

Look at the effects of the information received from those who have repented. That valuable information has permitted us to dismantle their organizations and wage a more selective, competent, and effective struggle. Not long ago, thanks to their information, we have destroyed terrorists camps.

My government, on behalf of the society, gives these men a new chance. Many of them took the path of terror convinced by false apostles, who finally showed their true colors as common criminals working for drug traffickers.

That was the agenda that led to justice and freedom. I want to stress that just as we have applied harsh sanctions against the leaders of these terrorist groups and those responsible for terrible crimes, we will be generous toward those who can demonstrate their capacity to repent and desire to change. There are Peruvians here who want to rebuild their lives. They want to pay with work and military service for what they have done. In general, they want to pay for what they themselves destroyed to contribute to the task of pacification. Therefore, we open the door for you and your families to join the task of national reconstruction.

Before 5 April, the situation that we have today in the area of pacification and the righteous and coherent implementation of an anti-terrorist strategy was unthinkable. Before, the interests of political parties were more important than the sacred interests of the nation. Just take a look at the results of the counterterrorist struggle waged during the last two administrations.

With a weak and apparent democracy, surrounded by corruption, with the country being run by governments unaware of the historical moment in which they were living, with political parties only concerned with maintaining their electoral presence and the privilege of leadership, what time and willingness would there be to fight terrorism?

After 5 April, we issued an counterterrorism legislation that would have never come out from that ungovernable and inefficient Congress. Today, Peruvians know that thanks to that legislation, we have been able to bring to trial, with all severity, criminals such as Abimael Guzman and others. Thanks to that legislation, today we can separate the wheat from the chaff. We can separate wrongdoers, such as those irreducible criminals who are serving life sentences, from these men, who made mistakes, but who do not have criminal souls or hate Peru.

In the past, there was great negligence and irresponsibility. It was not luck which enabled Comrade Gonzalo [Shining Path leader Abimael Guzman] or Comrade Rolando [MRTA leader Victor Polay] to remain in hiding. In the case of Comrade Rolando, Victor Polay, it was not luck which permitted him to escape from prison through a tunnel. It was a mysterious fairy godfather who helped him escape. In the case of Abimael Guzman, it was the weakness—I say it clearly—of Mr. Belaunde's administration which permitted Guzman to remain free to continue his work of death and destruction. The Peruvian people must know that Abimael Guzman was surrounded in [name indistinct] street in San Isidro in 1982. The Interior Ministry notified Belaunde but he decided not to capture him after being informed that Guzman was seriously ill. Instead of being captured, the government then negotiated with Guzman's emissary so that Guzman could find asylum and escape abroad. According to a reporter, who is not pro-Fujimori and instead was close to the Belaunde administration, Belaunde did not want to have a prisoner die while being held by the government.

Bulgaria's Valentin Dobrev Meets Prime Minister

AU2011154592 Sofia BTA in English 1439 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] Lima, November 20 (BTA)—Mr. Valentin Dobrev, deputy minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria, who is on a Latin American tour, was received by Mr. Oscar de la Puente Raygada, prime minister and minister of foreign affairs of Peru. Mr. Dobrev conferred with the deputy minister and secretary general of the Peruvian Foreign Ministry Roberto Villaran [spelling as received]. They discussed topical international matters and opportunities for the promotion of bilateral relations, focusing on specific areas and initiatives of shared interest in agriculture, pharmaceutics, trade, and cultural contacts.

The sides signed an agreement on cooperation and information exchange between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria and Peru, as well as an agreement on relaxed visa requirements. Bulgaria handed drafts of frame agreements on reicprocal investment promotion and protection and on the avoidance of double taxation.

Uruguay

Grenades Explode at U.S. Embassy, Military Post

PY1911120992 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 0830 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Three explosive devices went off yesterday: A plastic explosive went off at the back of the presidential residence, located on the corner of Suarez and Reyes streets; a grenade exploded at Artillery Group No. 5, where Army Commander in Chief Lieutenant General Juan Rebollo happened to be at the time of the incident; and another grenade exploded at the sentry box of the American Embassy. The three attacks took place before dawn on 18 November a few hours after the Armed Forces started patrolling Montevideo's streets in compliance with orders from the executive branch.

A car bearing Montevideo license plate No. 234096 exploded at 0500 GMT today. The cause of the explosion is not known. The car was parked at 1581 Pedro Campbell Street, in the Jose Batlle Park area, where the vehicle's owner, accountant Carlos Gomez, lives. Gomez has stated that he does not belong to any political party. The firemen who put out the fire ruled out the possibility of an accident.

Government, Striking Policemen Begin Negotiations

PY1911224192 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 0830 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Excerpts] Having pledged that they would put aside their unbending attitudes, the executive branch, through Interior Minister Juan Andres Ramirez, and the mobilized policemen have agreed to enter into direct negotiations in an attempt to put an end to the strike which has now lasted for four days.

Two concurrent mediations by the Catholic Church and members of the Interior Ministry Support Committee prevented activities from coming to a grinding halt, including the provision of essential services, which the strikers had threatened to suspend in response to the sanctions and reprisals which were going to be taken against them.

Ramirez himself ordered the suspension of all methods of exerting pressure on the strikers, and the cancellation of the final notice whereby they were summoned to go back to work.

The negotiations are being carried on against the backdrop of the executive branch's possible implementation of emergency security measures. Yesterday afternoon, four representatives from the Police Support Committee, Hector Ducol, Sergio Duran, Julio [name indistinct], and Daniel Pozzi, met with Ramirez and with Sandra Noguera, spokesman for the mobilized policemen, at the Libertad Building. [passage omitted]

The formula proposed by the executive branch to solve the problem of the pay hike demanded by subaltern policemen envisages a salary of 960,000 pesos, including an allowance of 160,000 pesos, and a 5 percent increase for officers having more than 15 years of service. This salary increase, which is partially included in the Armed Forces and police retirement law, does not meet strikers' aspirations, as they demand that the 160,000 pesos allowance should not be part of the total salary. Policemen had requested a basic pay of 1,200,000 for subaltern police officers, or in other words that their current salaries be increased 200 percent. [passage omitted]

Senate Approves Retirement Program

PY1911232492 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 0830 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] At 0230 this morning, a plenary session of the Senate passed by a large majority a bill on the reform of the Armed Forces and police retirement program.

At midnight, a committee approved the possibility of choosing between the current program and [words indistinct] of the age bracket near retirement. Among other changes, it has also been established that retirement can be obtained with 20 years of service instead of the 25 years initially proposed by the government.

As far as the individuals who are retiring with the rank of corporal are concerned, they will receive retroactive pay in five equal and consecutive installments with a readjustment every four months, and not in 10 installments as was initially proposed.

Executive Branch Orders Arrest of Officers

PY1911220092 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 0830 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Six Army officers and 18 members of the Navy have been placed in solitary confinement [arrestados a rigor] and are being held incommunicado for having refused to comply with the order to patrol the streets. The arrests were made early in the morning, a few hours after the Armed Forces started carrying out the street patrols, as ordered by the executive when the policemen's strike took a turn for the worse.

The Army members being held in custody are all officers. As for the Navy members, there is one officer, four noncommissioned officers, and 13 sailors.

The order to patrol the streets caused uneasiness among mid-level Army officers, and was implemented only after a long delay. The Army patrol, which was slated to leave at 2100, did not do so until 2230. Ten Army units, five Navy units, and two Air Force units, together with a score of police cars and police officers, are patrolling the streets of Montevideo.

Navy Denies Officers Refuse To Obey Orders

PY1911170692 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] The Navy issued a communique that El Espectador will read to its audience now:

Communique 2098/992 from the Navy Public Relations Office:

In view of statements published by the local press, the fleet commander, with the appropriate authorization, informs the population that it is absolutely false that high-ranking or second-level Naval Marine Corps personnel refused to carry out orders issued by their superiors.
Signed: Rear Admiral Ricardo Murialdo, Fleet Commander

Venezuela

Tribunal: Presidential Term Cut 'Unconstitutional'

PA2011011792 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Report by Jose Macano]

[Text] During a special session on 19 November, the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] ruled that a proposal to reduce President Perez' term in office presented by Senator Pedro Pablo Aguilar and backed by the Movement Toward Socialism [MAS] is unconstitutional and, therefore, inadmissible.

Jose Macano reports from CSE headquarters:

[Macano] The CSE has agreed with Senator David Morales Bello's argument that Aguilar's proposal violates Article 117 of the Constitution.

After adopting this decision, the CSE reported that the issue has served to enhance the country's political culture. It noted that after the CSE Legal Affairs Office carefully analyzed the issue and voted on including a third ballot in the 6 December election, it became clear the proposal has no legal basis.

The CSE decision coincided with the results of an analysis made by Luis Enrique Oberto, president of the Chamber of Deputies, who said the Constitution envisages referendums only when changes are to be made to the Constitution itself.

[Begin CSE President Isidro Morales Paul recording] The CSE, as a public sector institution, functions based on the law. This means it cannot do anything different from what is stated in the law. This is established in Article 117 of the Constitution and Articles 7, 10, 19, and others of the Administrative Procedures Basic Law.

We are talking about a proposal calling for actions not authorized by our laws. Our Constitution envisages the holding of referendums to consult on constitutional reform proposals. The Municipal Government Basic Law considers two kinds of local referendums, but this does not apply in this case.

The argument that the Constitution does not envisage the holding of referendums for other reasons, but does not prohibit them either is not legally acceptable. This argument is contrary to the legality principle established in Article 117 of the Constitution. The argument is applicable to citizens, but not to the public sector.

The argument that this involves an unforeseen situation is not valid either. [end recording]

Six CSE members voted in favor and two members voted against discarding the possibility of holding a referendum to reduce President Carlos Andres Perez' term in office. One of the members abstained.

Army on Alert; Church Warns of Coup Attempt

PA1911034392 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Division General Pedro Remigio Rangel Rojas, Army general commander, instructed all garrisons in the country to be on the alert against sabotage by subversives, as Defense Minister Gen. Ivan Dario Jimenez warned on 17 November. [Hamburg DPA in Spanish at 1650 GMT on 19 November adds: "The Venezuelan Armed Forces were placed on maximum alert on 19 November after a number of attacks. Meanwhile, the Catholic Church has warned of the danger of a coup d'etat in view of the rapid loss of legitimacy of the government of President Carlos Andres Perez.

["General Pedro Remigio Rangel, the Army commander, said subversive groups are planning actions against Venezuela's democratic institutions. He said he has instructed garrison commanders to adopt preventive measures."

["Meanwhile, in an unusual communique, the Catholic Church expressed concern over the Perez administration's loss of legitimacy and the increasing demands for the president's resignation. Caracas Auxiliary Bishop Diego Padron said the reasons for this popular demand must be sought. He also warned about the growing instability in the Armed Forces, stating that there is generalized fear over the possibility of a new coup attempt, similar to the 4 February attempt.

["The Catholic hierarchy met on 18 November with the Senate leadership, which is debating a proposal to include in the 6 December elections a referendum on Perez' permanence in office. Perez' term is scheduled to end in February 1994."]

Perez Says Armed Forces 'Not on Alert'

PA2011020992 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] President Carlos Andres Perez has reasserted there is absolute normality in the country and stated that the Armed Forces are not on alert. The president made these statements at the head offices of EL GLOBO during a visit to award the workers on the occasion of the paper's first anniversary. After pointing out that the Armed Forces are not under any special alert conditions, the president said the situation is absolutely normal throughout the country, and the Armed Forces have only been reminded to stay alert for any sabotage attempts.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Do you agree with (Moises Naid)?

[Perez] You should ask (Moises Naid). It is his position. I prefer not to complicate my life with this problem, but I believe that all such opinions, which any Venezuelan may wish to express, are allowed under the right to freedom of expression. We, who at any given time happen to be mentioned in such a publication, must reflect upon the truth or falseness of what has been stated. [end recording]

With regard to the questionnaire that the Chamber of Deputies' Comptroller's Commission, which is investigating the loss of 250 million bolivars, will send President Carlos Andres Perez within two weeks, Perez said he did not believe the commission will send it after all, as this is an issue that concerns the Ministry of Interior Affairs.

Perez Says Competitiveness Must Be National Goal

PA1811182092 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Report by Milagros Rodriguez]

[Text] President Carlos Andres Perez inaugurated the Management 92 congress and said Venezuela must tenaciously promote an agreement for a thorough commercial expansion with Europe and Asia. He also noted that striving to be competitive must be a national goal. Perez said the biggest obstacle to Venezuelan competitiveness is the lack of training for our human resources to prepare them to undertake a massive industrial modernization. The president emphasized that investment in human resources should be an essential part of the development program.

[Begin Perez recording] We need to constantly innovate and improve our productive processes as they are the levers that allow our products to gain favor with all types of consumers. Our medium-term objective must be to attain growth on the international markets for all our products within the framework of a technological wave that is rapidly expanding. [end recording]

Venezuelan Executives Association President Jorge Maza said Venezuela confronts a new challenge. First it must develop its own market so it can later go to foreign markets.

[Begin Maza recording] Our borders have already been opened to foreign imports. The commercial opening has placed us in a position we have never experienced before; that is, competing with foreign products on our own domestic markets. Those who have already crossed our borders have been more aggressive, skilled, and, obviously more opportunistic. Why? Basically because they have the right attitude and experience. We do not venture outside our borders in the same number. Such a situation should alert Venezuelan businessmen. Venezuela has to emphasize its competitive advantages to be able to participate successfully on the international market. We have to determine our advantages in each field and expand them. Fortunately, Venezuela has geographic and natural advantages. It has abundant land and natural beauty. It has known political stability for more than 30 years and, above all, it has human resources as its greatest advantage because man is the center of competitiveness. [end recording]

This analysis was also shared by CIOS [expansion unknown] President Alberto Kryger, who stated that an economy's competitive structure must cover seven aspects, including education, human resources, management, and leadership.

[Begin Kryger recording] In this case, success appears when a generalized system is achieved. Competitiveness makes sense when the country's social and political system is consistent with the strategies and work done by companies. A society's political system, values, and premises are critical factors in its general efficiency. [end recording]

Management 92 will continue to debate important issues until November 18. Business personalities will present new achievements in this field that will enable Venezuela to become competitive.

Defense Minister Discusses Budget Increase

PA1811145892 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Defense Minister General Ivan Dario Jimenez Sanchez reported the 1993 defense budget does not include resources to buy new equipment. He explained that the increase in the 1993 budget, which amounts to 90 billion bolivares, is to be used to maintain existing equipment. The defense minister also stated that the maintenance will be carried out in Venezuela and that the allotment for new equipment has been eliminated.

[Begin Jimenez recording] We have a large amount of equipment that requires maintenance. We need to buy spare parts to maintain aircraft, frigates, and tanks. So, I imagine, the Congress decided to increase our budget to allow us to service the equipment. [end recording]

Council Approves Foreign Debt Capital Payment

PA2011043692 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] On 19 November, the Council of Ministers approved a disbursement of $150 million to cover an overdue foreign debt capital payment. The announcement was made by Pablo Carreno Idrogo, director general of the Central Information Office. Carreno Idrogo briefly explained what he considers the three most important issues discussed in the Council of Ministers.

[Begin Carreno Idrogo recording] The most important topic reviewed, among other things, was a minor amendment to the Christmas bonus decree. A 30-day bonus was approved for contract workers, which was not included in the previous decree. Also, two Finance Ministry decrees were approved—one for $150 million, to cover an overdue foreign debt capital payment, and one for $60 million, to pay the transportation debt. These were the most important issues approved in the Council of Ministers. [end recording]

Over 90 Percent of Pollees Disapprove of Perez

PA1811152692 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1536 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Caracas, 17 Nov (NOTIMEX)—According to a poll reported on 17 November, more than 90 percent of the population rejects the administration of Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, whose popularity has dropped 20 points since last September.

Approximately 70 percent of the 2,154 people polled in eight main Venezuelan cities in October said they believed a new coup attempt will probably occur in the coming months.

According to statistics supplied by the firm "Eco Omnimagen," however, this percentage contrasts with the 93 percent who asserted that democracy is the best system of government.

The economic crisis, corruption, and insecurity are considered to be the main problems in Venezuela, a country that has lived through a period of upheaval since the foiled military coup d'etat in February.

The poll results, which were published by the newspaper EL NACIONAL, noted that people have a "positive appreciation" of the Catholic Church and the media. The people polled evaluate as "fair" the work done by universities, the Armed Forces, and community associations.

A new coup attempt would find public opinion divided as 47.2 percent said they would reject a coup and 43.7 percent said they would support it.

The 91.9 percent of people who rejected the Perez administration is made up of 62.8 percent who regard it as poor and 29.1 percent who consider it to be fair to poor. In addition, 60 percent of those polled estimate the government will worsen in the coming months.

The new opinion poll revealed that the number of those who repudiate the government of President Perez, whose term ends in 1994, increased from 70 percent in September to more than 90 percent last month.

"At 91.9 percent there is still some distance to go before 1993," the newspaper EL NACIONAL editorialized. The newspaper devised a game, comparing the poll results to those projected for next year, when general elections are scheduled to be held.

If the elections were held now, 48.6 of those polled said they would not vote for the president, 47.8 percent said they would, and 3.6 percent are undecided.

Former Christian Democratic Party president Rafael Caldera, who governed from 1969 to 1974, is still the favorite to replace Perez, with 25 percent, well above Eduardo Fernandez (by 4.8 percent), of the same party, whom Caldera is confronting vigorously.

Next was Jose Vicente Rangel, journalist and former candidate for president, with 4 percent; writer Arturo Uslar Pietri with 3.7 percent; and Claudio Fermin, mayor of Caracas and the government's hopeful candidate for president, with 3 percent.

Uslar, regarded as the country's most respected independent voice, gained the most acceptance among those polled for his political performance, winning 1.9 points on a scale that ranges from 2 to - 2. He is followed by Caldera with 0.4. Rangel trails with 0.38.

Both Caldera and Uslar have led the demand to reduce Perez' term from five to four years and the call for him to step down, alternatives that the president has rejected flatly.

Regarding the country's general situation, 85 percent of those polled think the wave of extremist attacks and acts of violence will continue.

In September, the Bolivarian Liberation Forces made their debut with a foiled armed attack against Antonio Rios, a government deputy and trade union leader. The attack was followed by an explosive device thrown at the Caracas residence of former president Jaime Lusinchi, who governed from 1984 to 1989. Lusinchi lives in Costa Rica.

On 16 November a group of rebels attacked a radio station in Barquisimeto, 350 km west of Caracas, from where they aired a recorded message against the government and called voters to abstain from participating in the regional elections scheduled to be held next month.

* Caldera on Economy, Leadership, Social Issues

93SM0049E Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 21 Oct 92 p D2

[Text] Senator-for-life Rafael Caldera told Spanish news correspondents yesterday, 20 October, that they are in a country in which the president of the republic is in disagreement with public opinion, that the majority of Venezuelans have lost confidence in him, and that this is one of the main causes of the crisis that is affecting us.

Although he tried to speak in a conciliatory tone and excused himself to the national press for voicing criticisms to their Spanish colleagues, the ex-chief executive said that, in Venezuela, there is sustained growth in government spending and in the fiscal deficit, while the government persists in prescribing new taxes without having the slightest intention of adjusting the income of the people.

They asked him if the Venezuelan problem is rooted in a confrontation of ideologies, and Caldera replied that "there are many disagreements that are expressed in a lack of national unity."

Everything in Due Course

Caldera repeated his opinion regarding the advisability of amnesty for the government's political prisoners, replying "everything in due course."

He later said that, among the satisfactions in his life, he counts achieving the pacification of the country at the right moment, under favorable conditions, and with good collaborators.

They asked him whether, if he became president, he would change the neoliberal direction of the economy, that Carlos Andres Perez has encouraged, and Caldera replied: "I start with the following thought: serious errors in social cost can be committed if the economy is viewed as something separate from social reality. I believe that the results of an economic policy do not have to be measured only by certain macro-economic indicators, such as the increase in treasury reserves or money circulation, but by the people having greater access to a suitable standard of living."

Caldera said that a policy that causes an increase in the number of people who do not have the means to sustain human life has to be wrong, "but it would be a mistake to oppose one theoretical position with another theoretical position. It is not a question of whether the policy is neoliberal or interventionist, but of analyzing each aspect of the economic problem and resolving it according to the real situation."

Rafael Caldera said that one of Venezuela's most worrisome problems is the ongoing disappearance of the middle class, considering that one of the most positive aspects in Venezuela during the last 50 years has been the rise of an educated and influential middle class comparable to that of any developed country.

No to Redrafting

In a brief exchange with the Venezuelan press, Caldera said that Henry Ramos Allup was rather restrained in ascribing responsibility for the economic crisis to statements by Minister Haussman or to the actions of the Central Bank, when the crisis was a result of errors in the economic policy put into effect by Carlos Andres Perez.

He said that there is a lack of confidence, no monetary stability, "and a stable currency is an indispensable element in any country in order for the economy to function normally."

As for the budget, he said that there has been enormous confusion, and that the devaluation of recent days has changed all of the calculations. In his opinion, it would be unfortunate to have to redraft the budget, "but if there is no other alternative, it would be a solution."

Caldera believes that electoral controversy is at a reasonable level, but "there is something deeper that troubles Venezuelans," he concluded.

* COPEI Deputy on Disastrous Economic Policy

93SM0049A Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 20 Oct 92 p D2

[Text] The latest fluctuations in the value of Venezuela's currency in the growing inflation prompted the president of the Comptrollership Commission of the Chamber of Deputies, Nelson Chitty La Roche, to say that "Venezuela is in a state of economic emergency" and that, therefore, it is important to admit that the economic policy has turned out to be a disaster.

He refuted the much vaunted thesis of the ministers of economy—past and present—about the bonanza that the economic package would bring, because not only has macroeconomic stability not been achieved, but also stability itself is seriously jeopardized.

"The fiscal deficit borders on 10 percent of the gross domestic product. The remedy that this situation suggests to the government necessarily involves exchange rate controls and to structuring devaluation as the only solution to the problem of price instability.

Chitty La Roche's position coincides with that expressed by FEDECAMARAS [Venezuelan Federation of Associations and Chambers of Commerce and Industry], to the effect that new taxes and currency devaluation lead to exchange rate controls.

The Social Christian [COPEI] deputy produced statistics and pointed out that our currency has depreciated by between 8 and 10 percent in a week and international reserves are between 13 and 14 billion bolivares. Therefore, to resort to the old expedient of the exchange rate fantasy to soak up the "disgusting [grosero] fiscal deficit" seems to him to be illegal.

He said that COPEI understands the necessity to slow down in order not to run into "the ditch of hyperinflation" that would endanger even what has been gained, that in some way legitimates "these four years of sacrifice."

"We will have a balance of payments deficit this year and, if the foreign accounts are bad, what good was the package?"

Asked about statements by the head of the AD [Democratic Action] congressional group, Henry Ramos Allup, who severely criticized the economic package and its principal author, Miguel Rodriguez, Chitty said that it is imperative that AD accept responsibility for the present economic policy. What he believes is still more serious is to criticize when it is well-known that AD went along enthusiastically with President Perez's important decisions.

Chitty La Roche said that COPEI is concerned about the report that an effort will be made to control exports, because such a measure could discourage investments and slow down economic activity.

"The problem continues to be obscene government spending, in itself inflationary, which distorts and undermines the effectiveness of economic adjustment and renders its effect on the public regressive."

In Chitty La Roche's opinion, the justification about the exchange rate could tie in with a strategic adjustment in economic policy, but nothing justifies this drop in the value of our currency in comparison to the dollar, which is undervalued in European markets.

The economic situation admits of no further discussion, and that is why he recommends that the government tell the truth, which is that next year will be worse yet.

* FEDECAMARAS' Reforms Defended

93SM0049C Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 18 Oct 92 p D1

[Text] "It is surprising to find a political convergence aimed at attacking the economic adjustment program, and which is responsible for the present crisis, when everything is the result of the failure to reduce the size of the state and its economic burden."

So stated Freddy Rojas Parra, President of (FEDECAMARAS [Venezuelan Federation of Associations and Chambers of Commerce and Industry]), referring to statements by political organizations in preparation for the December elections.

"We businessmen should not be afraid to defend the Economic Restructuring Program that was launched by the present administration, and that several political sectors are trying to make exclusively responsible for the present unfavorable situation, when it is obviously a result of the state's unwillingness to reduce its size and its weight on the national economy."

He noted that the pre-electoral positions of several political organizations have been based on a presumed failure of the official economic program, which presumably would require a return to former economic policies, especially controls and regulations.

Rojas Parra said that, from an economic standpoint, it would be an error to retreat from the program. If the economic program has not yielded more positive results, it is because many who formerly supported and encouraged it, now question it out of self-interest, for primarily political reasons, simply because they believe that the Venezuelan voter responds to the same stimuli as 10 years ago.

"Businessmen do not believe that the program has failed. The problem is that the initial concept has been distorted and given a short-term focus, preventing the more profound effects that are necessary for private citizens to be able to respond freely and confidently to the nation's economic and social needs."

He recalled that in FEDECAMARAS' last annual assembly, the members were faced with the choice of defending the reforms and carrying on with them, or allowing the unraveling political situation to annul the reform's gains and possibilities. "This was even the principal item on the agenda, in the belief that those policies should be supported that guarantee the consolidation of the private economy."

"Faced with the evidence that the almost universal political view is that the role of the state in the economy should remain the same, and therefore obliged by circumstances to become ever poorer, it becomes necessary that we undertake the mission of economic leadership that others cannot exercise, as long as they insist on going against the tide. Our future development is at stake in the execution of the economic program. Of course, with the corrections and adjustments that may have to be made, primarily those aimed at strengthening the private sector. Because, if we, as the private sector, do not recognize this plan as our own and we do not extract it from the government's initiative, we run the risk of regressing to a tutelary system. If that happens, the possibilities for growth and prosperity in the Venezuelan economy would be seriously undermined," he concluded with emphasis.

* Carlos Canache Mata Criticizes Corruption

93SM0049D Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 21 Oct 92 p D2

[Interview with AD (Democratic Action) leader Carlos Canache Mata by EL NACIONAL correspondent; place and date not given]

[Text] "Excessive love of money and corruption of values persist in this country," Carlos Canache Mata reiterated, and he said that efforts to oppose corruption have not been very successful.

As to the country's financial crisis caused by the adjustment program, the AD [Democratic Action] leader told EL NACIONAL yesterday, 20 October, that several fellow members of the CEN [AD National Executive Committee] criticized the "economic package" when it was explained to them during a meeting at La Casona, three days after President Carlos Andres Perez [CAP] took office.

He emphasized that, during the electoral campaign, Perez informed the party of only the general outline of the government's program, but the details of the adjustment program emerged later.

Among the criticisms, he recalls for example, that he always said that there should not have been a sudden liberalization of the exchange rate to be determined only by the market, but that, at the beginning, there should have been exchange rate controls, with an increase in the parity rate from 14.50 to 20, and then the rate of parity would have been adjusted according to developments in the national economy.

"This was not done. The exchange moved in one step from 14.50 to 38 bolivares to the dollar, because the national currency was allowed to float in the foreign exchange market, and this evidently had to cause the inflationary explosion that took place in 1989, approximately an 84.4-percent rate of inflation," he said.

Also, he continued, as for the policy of price liberalization, observations were made to the effect that liberalization should not be absolute and unrestricted, but that there should be limits, especially given the fact that there is no competition in Venezuela but rather an oligopolistic economy.

[EL NACIONAL] Did you and your colleagues know the details of the package, chapter by chapter?

[Canache Mata] Not all at once. They were explained to us at meetings at La Casona, after the president took office.

Corruption

As for corruption, the AD leader again expressed his concern, which he had already made known to EL NACIONAL recently, over "the dance around the golden calf that is being performed in this country."

[EL NACIONAL] What did you mean when you said that, in spite of the crisis in Venezuela, dancing around the golden calf continues?

[Canache Mata] That there is enormous corruption, inordinate love of money, of easy profits, of getting rich quickly. There is decay in the country's ethical and moral values, which is why everyone is prostrated before the golden calf, before money.

[EL NACIONAL] But the president of the republic says that he has fought against corruption?

[Canache Mata] Efforts have been made, but I do not believe that there has been much success.

[EL NACIONAL] What do you think of the remark by the Catalan leader, Joseh Duran Lleida, who said during a visit to our country that "he noted that the people are tired of CAP's leadership"?

[Canache Mata] President Perez has said that he has many friends. Of course, you would have to look at the polling surveys to compare their opinions with that observation. Politicians are always subject to seeing ups and downs in their popularity and acceptance in public opinion, according to the policies they may have to follow at any given moment.

Canache Mata added that "statesmen do not think about polls, but politicians do."

Between a Rock and a Hard Place

Regarding a reduction in the Fiscal Value on Exports (VFE), the AD leader pointed out that this is already taking place, because the rate has dropped from 20 percent to 17 percent, and in January 1993 it will be set at 16 percent.

The complete elimination of the VFE would be desirable, in his opinion, but the country's fiscal crisis has coincided with the delicate financial situation of the PDVSA [Venezuelan Petroleum, Inc.]. On the one hand, if we help the PDVSA by totally eliminating the VFE, we create a problem for the country's general fiscal crisis, because we lose revenues of 130 billion bolivares.

On the other hand, if the VFE is continued without reduction, the PDVSA will continue to be hurt, that is, we are between a rock and a hard place—Canache Mata said—and, therefore, this must be handled with care.

Guyana

Commonwealth Team Says Elections 'Free and Fair'

FL1811210192 Bridgetown CANA in English 2049 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Nov 18, CANA—A Commonwealth team that observed Guyana's national elections nearly two months ago concluded that the conduct of the poll, by and large, was free and fair.

"Our conclusion arrived at in light of our observations was that, taken as a whole, the organisation and conduct of the poll were properly and impartially carried out," the 16-member group led by Canadian, David Peterson, said in its final report to the Commonwealth secretary general.

"This conclusion was based on detailed observation of the run-up to and the conduct of the elections themselves," it added.

Peterson's team, which included six members from Caribbean Community (Caricom) member-states, supported the integrity of election officials, which has come under attack of the People's National Congress (PNC) which was voted from office after 28 years.

"The majority of election officers demonstrated their commitment to observing that the prescribed procedures were followed in respect of every voter," the observer team said. "The problems which we noted were, in our view, largely due to insufficient training and ordinary human error."

The Guyana elections, delayed by two years because of wrangles over the accuracy of the voters register, attracted international attention because of opposition charges of persistent electoral fraud by the PNC.

Hamilton Green, Guyana's former prime minister and a deputy leader of the PNC, has argued in Jamaica that the government of ex-President Desmond Hoyte, because of concerns over the charges, handed over "lock stock and barrel" the whole electoral process to persons who were ranged against the party. Green suggested this was used to frustrate PNC supporters of their right to vote on polling day. He charged that not only were there bureaucratic barriers on election day, but that the voters list which was used in the end, was not the one originally presented to the parties.

However, the report of the Commonwealth observer team would, apparently, support the integrity of the electoral officials, including elections chief Rudy Collins. Among the problems noted by the Commmonwealth mission was slowness in processing voters—up to 7 minutes—in what should be a 2-minute exercise, at some stations. There was also too much inflexibility by some presiding officers.

Said the report: "In observing election officers at work, there was clear evidence in a number of cases of ineptitude, perhaps due to a lack of proper training and/or incompetence, although the majority commendably (performed) well."

In any event, the observers argued, the result of the poll, in which Cheddi Jagan's People's Progressive Party (PPP) gained 52 per cent of the vote against the PNC's 42 per cent, reflected the will of the electorate. Added the report: "The organsiation and conduct of these elections provided the people of Guyana with an opportunity to freely choose the political party of their choice.

"The results should therefore be seen as a reflection of the genuine will of the Guyanese people. The election process as a whole has shown that the restoration of the democratic process in Guyana is possible and indeed that there is a basis for the strengthening of multi-party democracy in that country."

New Government Appoints Trade Minister

FL1711213692 Bridgetown CANA in English 2112 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Nov 17, CANA,—Shree Chand, who manages the company which publishes the ruling People's Progressive Party's MIRROR newspaper, has been appointed senior trade, industry, and tourism minister in the new Guyana Government, the privately-owned STABROEK NEWS reported Tuesday [17 November]. The newspaper quoted senior Information Minister Moses Nagamootoo as saying Chand will take up his appointment "after arrangements are tied up" at the new Guyana company.

The post of trade minister was not filled when President Cheddi Jagan announced his cabinet shortly after the PPP/Civic Coalition won last month's general election. There was speculation the post was earmarked for Pat Thompson, a Guyanese based in Barbados as executive director of the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC).

With Chand's appointment, the five-week administration of President Jagan now has 13 senior ministers and two junior ministers. It was also reported that Prime Minister Sam Hinds has taken over the mining portfolio which was previously handled by the office of the president. Senior minister in the office of the president, Clement Rohee, was last week appointed senior minister of foreign affairs.